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HUMOURS OF HISTORY.

160 Drawings by A. M.



Mera Stuart Alexander

X-mas 1915



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HUMOURS OF

160 Drawings

By ARTHUR MORELAND

HISTORY

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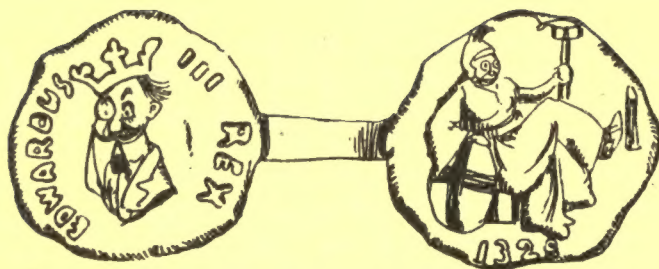
(Now THE DAILY NEWS AND LEADER)

Bouverie Street, London, E.C.

COMPLETE EDITION

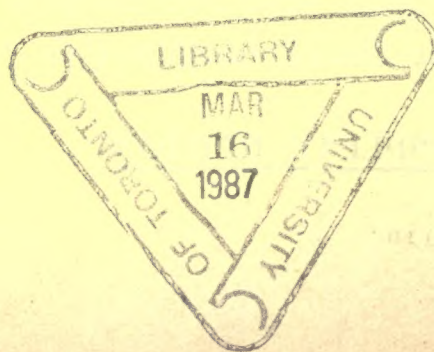
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SILVER PENNY OF EDWARD III
DISCOVERED IN STONECUTTER STREET

THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST COINS BEARING
THE FIGURE OF BRITANNIA, AND IS THE
ONLY SPECIMEN OF ITS KIND IN EXISTENCE.



PREFACE

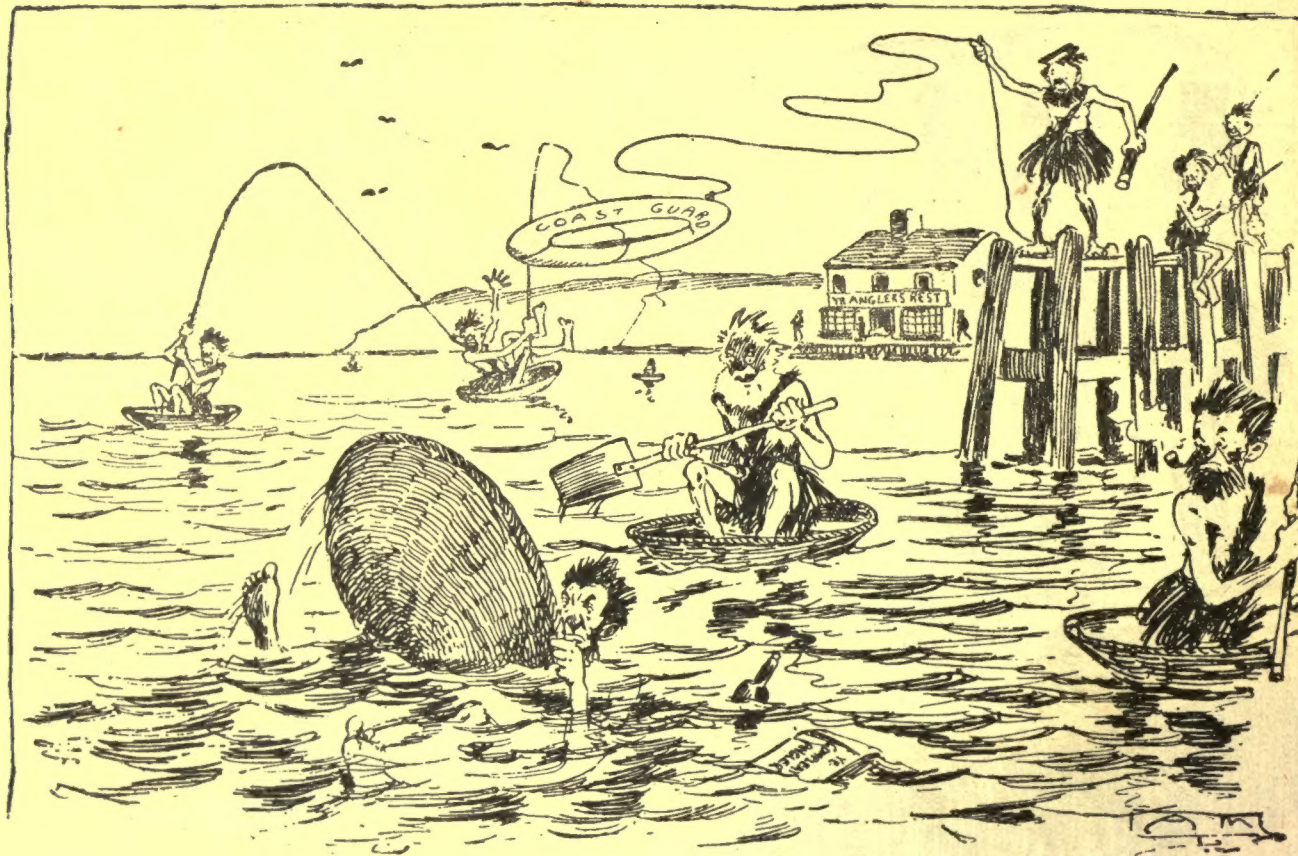
HISTORY (says the learned Herr Niemand) is the consolidation of doubtful traditions into undoubted facts. Such are the histories of dry-as-dust historians; but Mr. Moreland, in his pictorial past, reproduced from the *Morning Leader*, is on surer ground; all his events are founded on fact, and all his details are stranger than fiction. The aged may learn from the book of the "Humours of History"; by its help the youngest and cleverest may unlearn many of the fallacies he knows so much about. A few grumpy, middle-aged persons have suggested some inaccuracy in trifles; but their wiser elders, and the still wiser children, will perceive an astonishing faithfulness in small things. Alfred would never have been caught burning the cakes, consequently he would never have beaten the Danes and we should have had no Navy, if his landlady had not been endowed with the kind of half-Nelson grip depicted in Plate XXI:—the facial expressions of the cat on the hearth and the china ornithorhynchus on the mantelpiece confirm this view.

There is nothing here that can bring the blush of modesty to the cheek of the most inveterate Army-contractor, or rouse revolt in the breast of the most henpecked paterfamilias.



The Phœnicians. B.C. 100

Many years prior to the Roman invasion the Phœnicians, a business-like race of people who came from a country of Asia at the East of the Mediterranean, traded with the Ancient Britons for lead and tin



The Coracle. B.C. 99

The Coracle, our first essay in shipbuilding, was composed of reeds plaited into basketwork. It was used by the Ancient Britons on their angling expeditions



The War Chariot. B.C. 98

The ancient British war chariot was an awe-inspiring vehicle with scythe blades fixed to the axle



Municipal Shortcomings. B.C. 97

Prior to the Roman invasion, the Britons had very Moderate ideas of Municipal Government. Their houses were mere huts, and of roads there were none worth the name



The Druids. B.C. 96

The clergy of the period were known as Druids. They made a prominent feature of human sacrifices, and practically governed the country



The Oyster Industry. B.C. 54

It was the celebrity of the British oyster that first drew the attention of the Romans to these islands, and possibly the alleged discovery of a typhoid microbe led the Roman Emperor, in revenge for such an insult, to organize the invasion of our shores



The Landing of Julius Cæsar. B.C. 55

The currently accepted story of this event mentions considerable opposition on the part of the British, but it is more likely that the municipal dignitaries gave the Roman invaders an even more painful reception



Hadrian's Wall. A.D. 120

Irritated and inconvenienced by the repeated ravages of the Picts and Scots, the Roman general Hadrian built his celebrated wall from the Solway to the North Sea, as a means of checking their forays



Checkmate.—After Hadrian's Wall. A.D. 120

The indignation of the Picts and Scots when on their next excursion they found their way barred was intense. Though large portions of the wall still remain after nearly 2,000 years, its original usefulness has departed



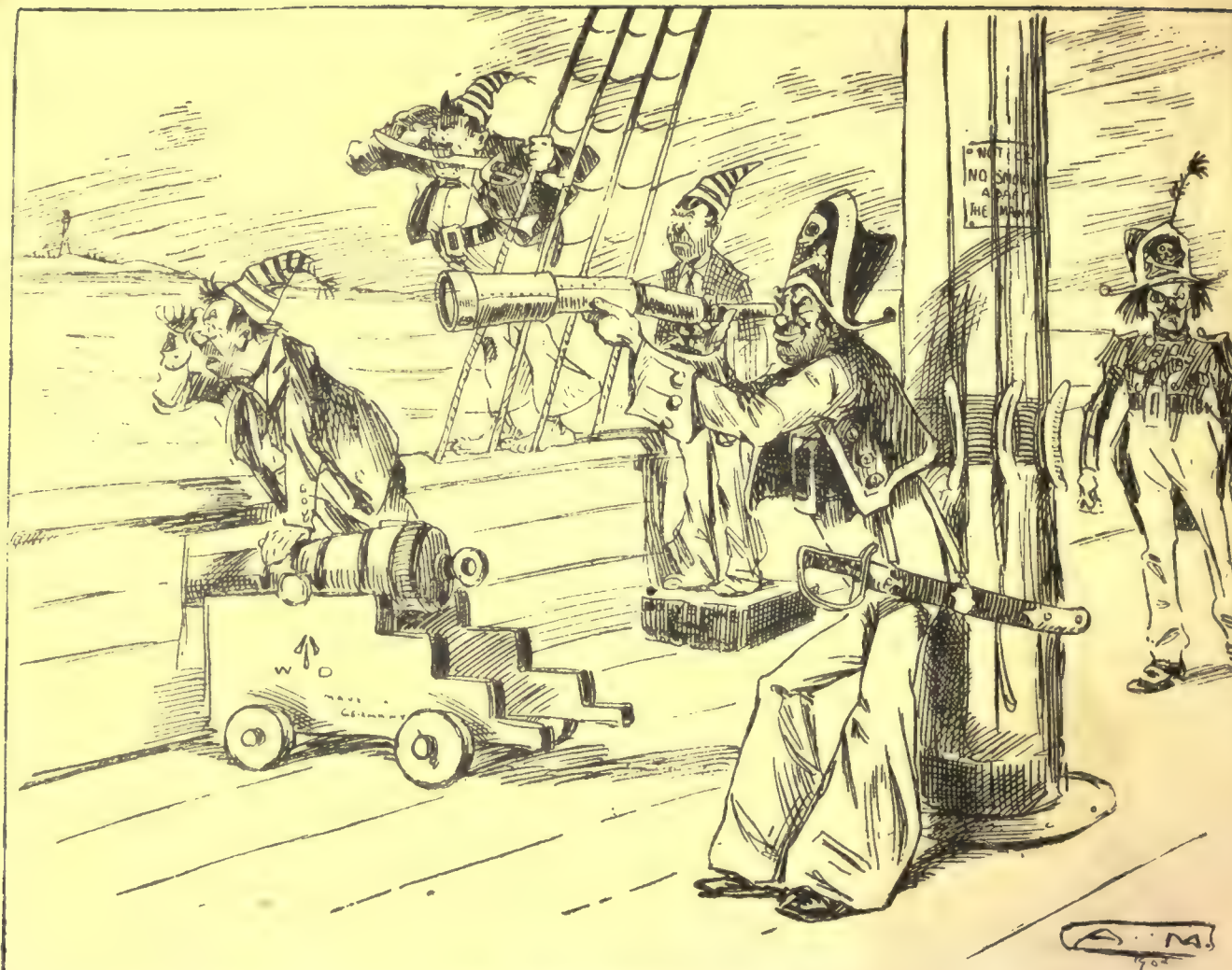
Boadicea. A.D. 61

The Romans obtained possession of the country and retained it for 500 years, in spite of numerous revolts against their rule. One of the best known British champions was Queen Boadicea, who defeated the Roman Commander-in-Chief Suetonius, and made 70,000 Romans into mincemeat. Ultimately she was, in turn, defeated, and poisoned herself.



The Scottish Invasion. A.D. 426

The Romans left Britain finally in A.D. 426. Directly their protection was withdrawn the Picts and Scots swarmed over the border and commenced a system of robbery and pillage



The Saxon Pirate. A.D. 449

After the withdrawal of the Romans, in addition to the Scot-cum-Pict troubles in Britain, others arose in the shape of the Saxons, who descended upon the East Coast and established themselves in the country



Hengist and Horsa. A.D. 457

Hengist and Horsa, two of the Saxon invaders, settled in Wessex, which was then under the rule of Vortigern. They brought with them the daughter of Hengist, Rowena, who paid marked attention to Vortigern, and ultimately married him. Vortigern entered into an alliance with Hengist and Horsa against the Picts and Scots



Shabby Conduct of Hengist and Horsa. A.D. 457

With the aid of Hengist and Horsa the Picts and Scots were defeated, and all would have been peace and quietness but for the greed of the Saxon. Vortigern was deposed from the throne and thrown into prison, where he died. Hengist and Horsa thereupon seized the country



The Bards. A.D. 500 onwards

In the time of the Saxons itinerant musicians, calling themselves Bards, travelled about the country and gave entertainments in the houses of the nobles. The custom still obtains, but the patronage of the peerage has been withdrawn



How King Arthur won Excalibur. A.D. 542

The famous King Arthur flourished about this time ; he was King of a British tribe called the Siluri, whose country was in the West of Britain. His sword, Excalibur, had magic powers, and to obtain possession of it King Arthur had to withdraw it from a rock wherein it had been firmly fixed by the wizard Merlin



The Mort d'Arthur. A.D. 542

King Arthur's nephew, Mordred, basely rebelled against him, and at the battle of Avalon the King was mortally wounded.
The funeral at Glastonbury was largely attended



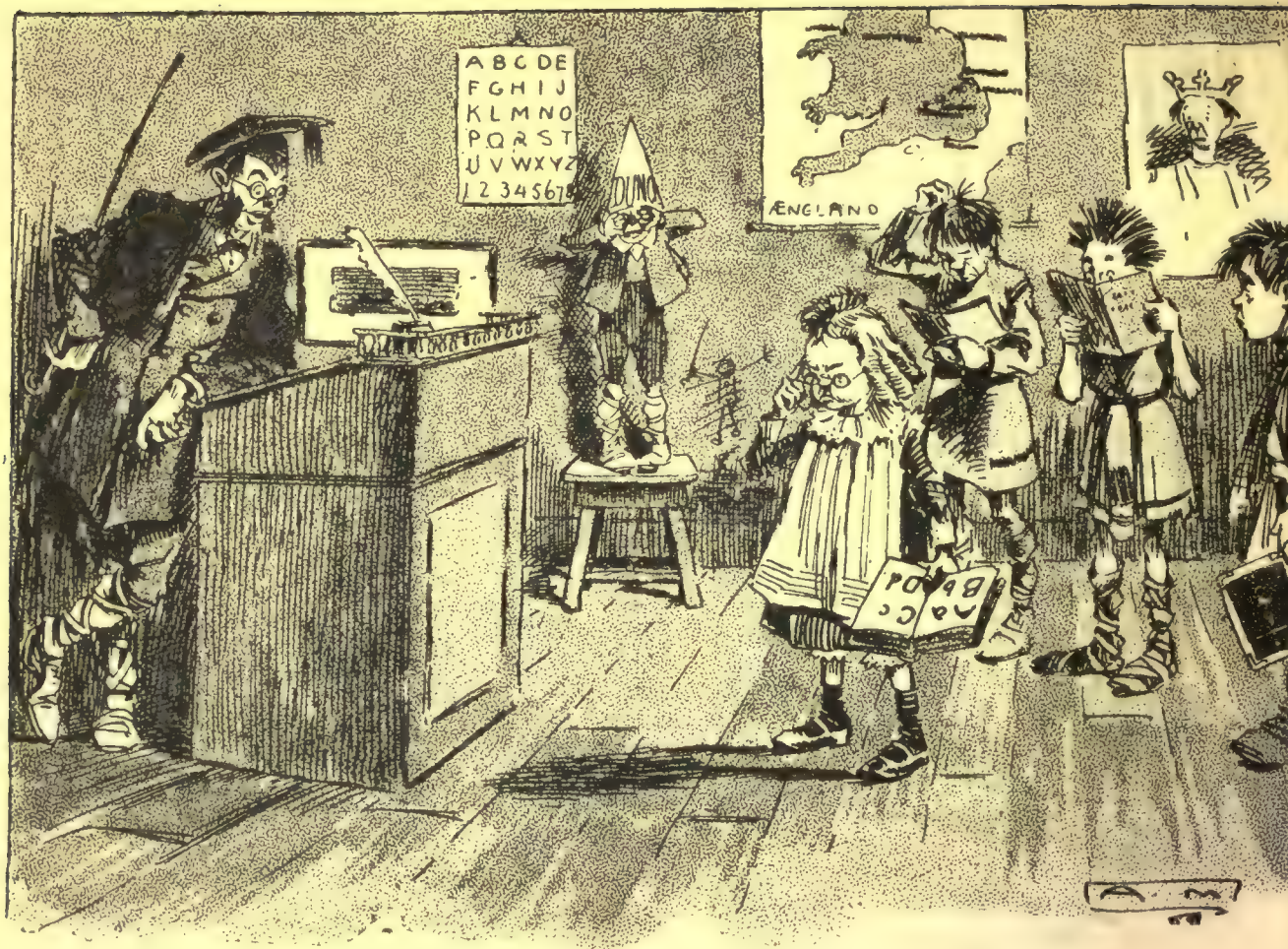
The Fate of Beotric. A.D. 827

Beotric, the last King of Wessex, was accidentally poisoned by his wife. She intended the potion for a courtier against whom she had a prejudice, but her husband, who was probably of a convivial nature, also partook of the mixture, and there was a double funeral



Bad News for Egbert. A.D. 835

Egbert, who succeeded Beotric, was the first to assume the title of King of England, which previously had been divided into seven kingdoms, called the Heptarchy. He was not left in peace for long, for in his reign the Danes commenced their ravages



Alfred the Great. A.D. 855

Alfred was the first king who possessed any good points. He began when quite young by displaying unusual diligence at school, and left his elder brothers far behind



The Burnt Cake Episode. A.D. 878

Soon after Alfred's accession the Danes again became troublesome and defeated the English. Alfred fled and hid himself incognito in the cottage of one Gurth—a swineherd. He was set by Gurth's wife, who of course had no knowledge of her guest's personality, to watch some cakes which were baking on the hearth. In a moment of abstraction Alfred allowed them to burn. Mrs. Gurth was most indignant



Narrow Escape of Alfred. A.D. 878

Nothing daunted by his previous defeat, Alfred essayed another encounter with the Danes, whose superior discipline again asserted itself against Alfred's untrained army, and he was again beaten at the battle of Wilton. He again had to fly, and for months eluded the vigilance of the victors by hiding in the marshes of Athelney



The Wandering Minstrel. A.D. 878

Alfred, who in spite of his misfortunes, had never ceased to plan the ultimate defeat of the Danes, again collected his forces. Disguising himself as a wandering minstrel, he penetrated the camp of Guthrum, the Danish King, and, learning their plans, laid his accordingly, and won a great victory, taking Guthrum prisoner



The First Militia. A.D. 893

Alfred, having subdued the Danes, entered into a friendly alliance with them, and to still further strengthen his position, organized the first Militia system, under which all men who were capable of doing so had to bear arms



Elfrida's Treachery. A.D. 975

Alfred was succeeded by Edward the Elder, who in turn gave way to Athelstane. Then came the six boy-Kings, one of whom, Edward the Martyr, was basely murdered by Elfrida, the Queen-Dowager. Edward, while out hunting, called on Elfrida. As he was partaking of refreshment, one of Elfrida's servants stole behind him by her order and slew him



The Law of Distraint. A.D. 978

Ethelred, called The Unready, succeeded Edward, and distinguished himself by imposing the first direct tax upon the English. It was called Danegeld, because it was needed to buy off the Danes, who were again causing trouble. It is possible that the law of distraint originated at this time



A Famous Duel. A.D. 1013

The money raised to buy off the Danes only served to bring them in greater swarms. Driven to desperation, Edmund Ironside, with commendable self-sacrifice, suggested to Canute, the Danish King, that they should decide the matter by single combat. Canute accepted, and the duel took place without much injury to either party. They then divided the country, Edmund taking the south of the Thames and Canute the north; but within a month Edmund died, and Canute annexed the whole



Canute and his Courtiers. A.D. 1020

In response to the wishes of his courtiers, Canute sat his chair on the seashore and commanded the waves to retire ; but, as there happened to be a high tide that day, the King was partially submerged. Historians tell us that he afterwards rebuked his Court, but omit to state what form the rebuke took



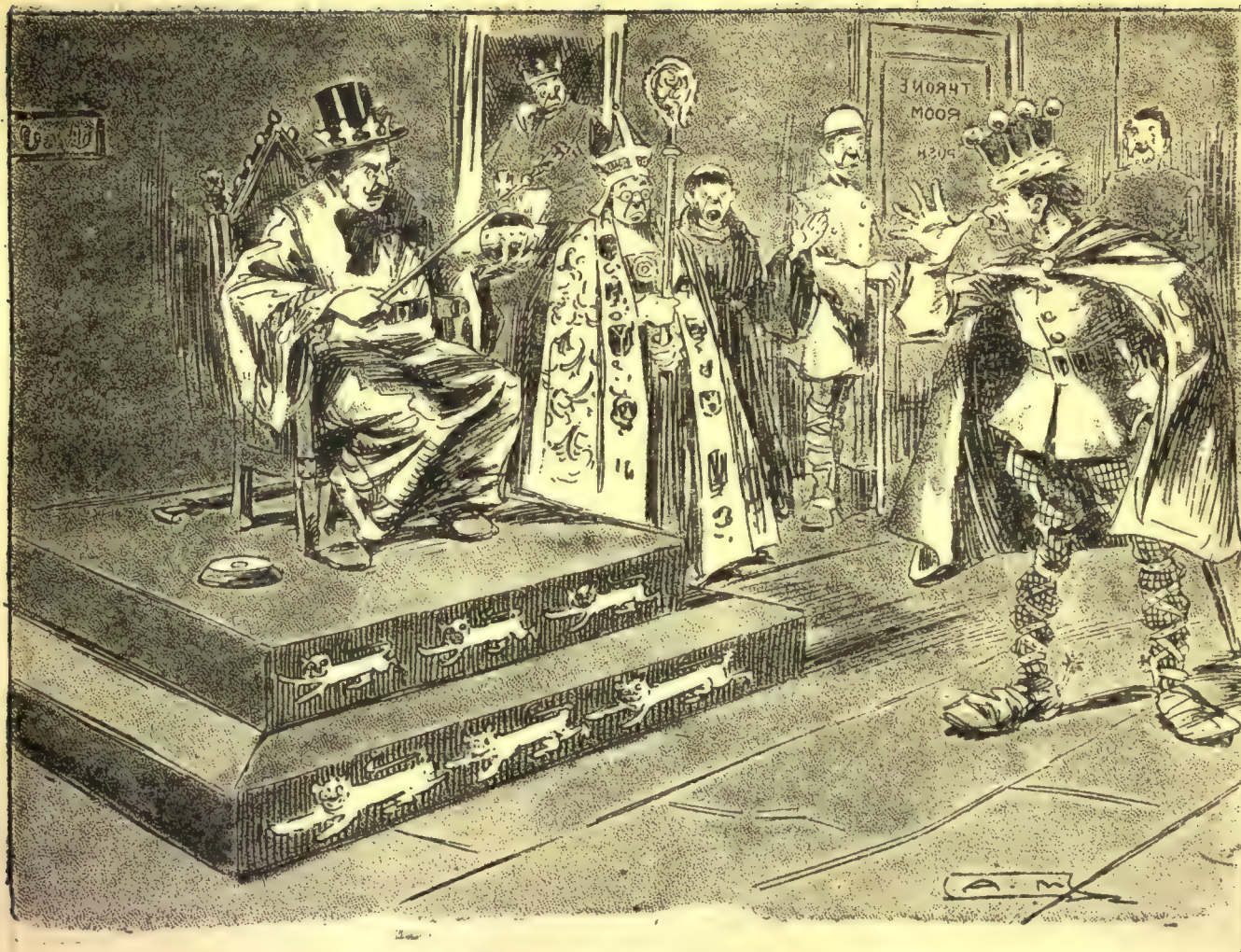
Trial by Ordeal. 11th Century

Saxon justice was of a primitive order. The accused was tried by ordeal either of water or of fire. In the latter case he had to pick up a bar of red-hot iron, walk three steps with it, and then drop it (this portion of the ceremony was always carried out to the letter). The hand was then bound up, the seal of the Church was placed on it, and if at the end of three days the wound was healed the man was pronounced innocent



French Customs. A.D. 1041

Third in succession after Canute was Edward, the son of Ethelred. As he had spent twenty-seven years at the Norman Court it is not surprising that Edward's succession marked a change in the manners and customs of the times. The French language was adopted at Court, and the lawyers and clergy used the same tongue



The Revolt of Godwin. A.D. 1041

The Frenchification of the country displeased the English nobles, and Earl Godwin, a powerful noble who had been chiefly instrumental in placing Edward on the throne, and was moreover the King's father-in-law, was foremost in expressing his disapproval. He snapped all ties of family by boldly refusing to acknowledge the King's authority



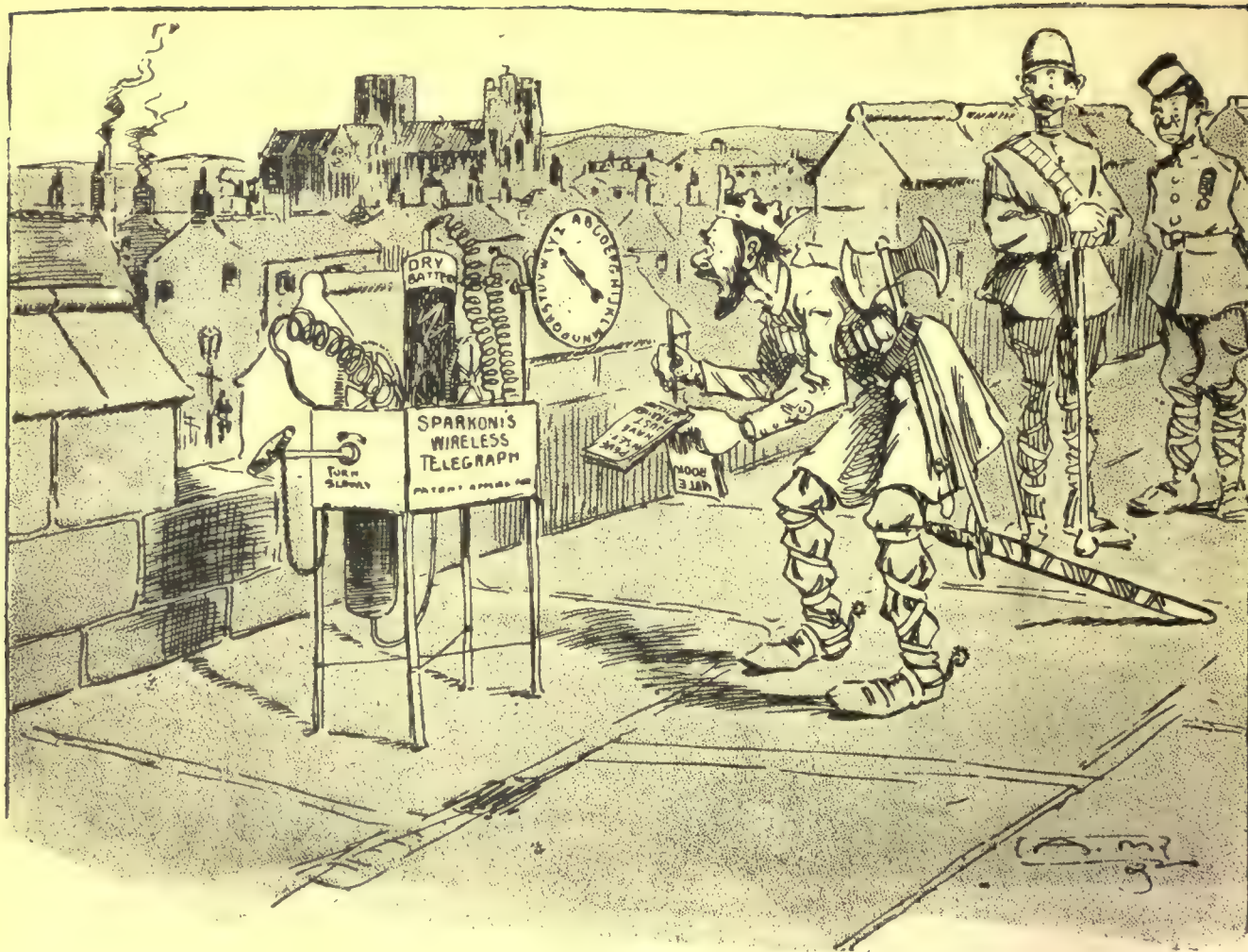
Reprisals on Godwin

Afraid of Godwin's power, Edward sought the aid of William Duke of Normandy, but when William arrived Godwin's army had dispersed. However, the Norman landed, and was hospitably entertained by Edward, who made a will appointing him heir to the Crown. This greatly displeased Godwin, who desired the throne for his son Harold



The Conqueror's Indignation. A.D. 1066

Edward died at the age of 65, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, which he had built. On account of his religious character he was known as "The Confessor." At his death Harold, son of Earl Godwin, seized the throne. William of Normandy on receipt of the news flew into a great rage, and resolved to stake on the issue of a battle the English crown; which he claimed as his own by the bequest of the Confessor



Harold "Ordered South." A.D. 1066

Harold was at York when the intelligence reached him that William with a large army had landed on the coast of Sussex near Pevensey. He at once hurried South



Gallant Conduct of William of Normandy. 14th October, 1066

At the battle of Hastings the fortunes of the day were at one time going against the Normans, and intelligence reached William, who, surrounded by his staff, was watching the battle, that his soldiers were wavering because of a report that he had been killed. The Duke at once removed his helmet and galloped down the line. The soldiers recognized him, and turned with renewed courage to the attack, with the result that the English were defeated, Harold was killed, and the old Saxon line came to an end



Family Quarrels. A.D. 1077

William had a great deal of trouble with his children. His eldest son, Robert, named "Curt hose," from his short legs, was nominal Duke of Normandy. He was a kind of brigand, and made his headquarters in the castle of Gerberoi, where he was besieged by his father, who came over from England specially. The story is that father and son met in single combat without recognizing each other. Robert had the best of it, and wounded his father. There was a mutual recognition, and a temporary reconciliation



The Royal Sportsman. A.D. 1079

William was passionately devoted to the chase, and instituted the first game laws. The penalties were somewhat drastic; offenders had their eyes torn out. The King of course shot what and where he wished



Evictions in the New Forest. A.D. 1080

Not content with the extensive facilities for hunting which at this time existed, the King cleared an immense tract of country in what is now Hampshire, by burning villages and turning out the inhabitants. He laid it out as a hunting ground, which remains to this day in the form of the New Forest



Surveying for Domesday Book. A.D. 1080-1086

The Domesday Book, compiled by William the Conqueror, was a register of English land, and occupied six years in compilation. It still remains in two vellum manuscripts, recording the size of each estate, the quality and use of the land, the name of the owner, and other details. With the aid of this book of reference, William organized the taxation in the most scientific manner



The Curfew. A.D. 1036

Another of William the Conqueror's acts was the institution of the Curfew. A bell was rung at eight o'clock in the evening, and all lights and fires had to be put out. Tyrannical as this seems, the measure may have been wisely intended to preserve the wooden houses from being burned.



Death of William. A.D. 1087

William's reign was to the Saxons one unending round of misery. It began in bloodshed and spoliation, and ended in famine and pestilence. The French King was the indirect cause of William's death—he sneered at the Conqueror's corpulence, and William declared war. He was thrown from his horse and killed during the siege of Mantua



Siege of Rochester Castle. A.D. 1087

The Conqueror's third son—William, surnamed Rufus—succeeded to the throne, and at the outset had to combat a deep-laid plot to place his elder brother Robert on the throne. Bishop Odo, the leading spirit of the conspiracy, was besieged in Rochester Castle, which enjoyed all the delights of mediæval attack and defence



Schemes to Invade the Holy Land. A.D. 1091

Robert of Normandy, instead of attending to the government of his Duchy, indulged in all sorts of wild schemes for invading the Holy Land, and his brother William Rufus, profiting by his indolence, sought to undermine his rule, and by bribery obtained possession of the fortresses on the right bank of the Seine. But the Norman barons and the French King reconciled the brothers, who agreed that the survivor should hold the united dominions



Mythical Origin of the House of Percy. A.D. 1092

No longer occupied with Norman affairs, Rufus led an army against Malcolm of Scotland. Peace was made, but next year, enraged by the settlement of an English colony at Carlisle, Malcolm invaded Northumberland. Here he died before Alnwick Castle—some historians say pierced in the eye by Roger de Mowbray, who thereby earned the name of Percy. Mowbray was—according to this story—handing Malcolm the keys on the point of a lance. Whether or not Mowbray was guilty of such an act of treachery, or whether Malcolm paid the penalty of reconnoitring through the letter-box, is not known.



Mediæval Strategy. A.D. 1095

Robert Mowbray, the strongest of the Norman Barons, rebelled, and within Bamborough Castle defied William Rufus. Being decoyed, however, from this stronghold, he was made prisoner and brought before the castle walls, still defended by his wife, Matilda. She refused to surrender until she saw preparations being made for the putting out of her husband's eyes. Then, to save him, she gave up the keys



Royal Rapacity. A.D. 1096

The extravagance of Rufus was unbounded. In his dissipations and his plans for raising money he had the assistance of Ralph Flambard, an ex-Monk, who devised the scheme of keeping abbeys and bishoprics vacant and diverting the revenues into the royal banking account. One of the chief sufferers was Anselm, who was forced by Rufus to accept the office of Archbishop of Canterbury, and was then bled to such an extent that he had to flee the country



"Uncle" Rufus. A.D. 1096

Robert, Duke of Normandy, pawned his duchy to his brother Rufus for five years, receiving in exchange the sum of 10,000 marks (about £6,700) which Rufus raised by fresh extortions



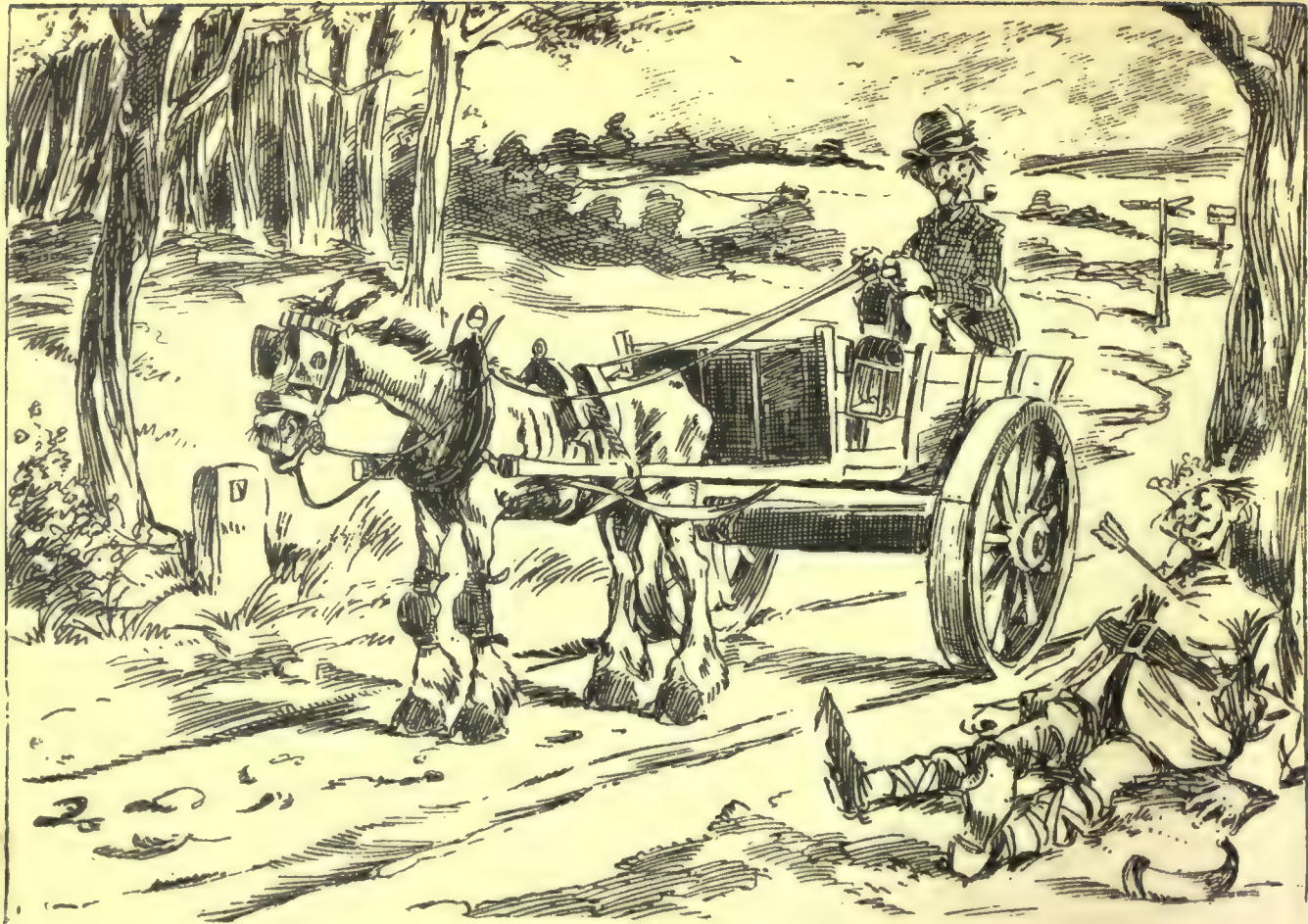
Off to the Crusades. A.D. 1096

Having sub-let his duchy to his brother William, Robert Duke of Normandy and Edgar Atheling set out for the Crusades



"Uneasy lies the Head." A.D. 1100

Rufus died by violence. He was at Malwood, his hunting lodge in the New Forest, and during the night was disturbed by horrible dreams and dismal forebodings. He decided not to join the hunt, but the wine he drank at dinner dispersed his fears. He set forth, but never returned



The End of Rufus. A.D. 1100

The body of Rufus was discovered by a charcoal burner, who put the corpse into his cart and carried it to Winchester for the funeral. Some say that the King's friend, Sir Walter Tyrrell, was the murderer, but dark stories of the time pointed the finger of suspicion at the King's brother, Henry, who succeeded him



A Royal Burglar. A.D. 1100

Henry (surnamed Beauclerc, or fine scholar), the youngest son of the Conqueror, no sooner heard of his brother William's death than he hurried to Winchester and seized the royal treasures



Beauclerc's Courtship. A.D. 1100

Henry Beauclerc, on his accession, promised to abolish the Curfew and Dan-geld and to redress other grievances under which the nation had groaned since the Conquest. Another stroke of policy was his marriage with Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, and niece of Edgar Atheling. This marked the union of the Saxon and Norman races, from which arose the true English nation



Ralph Flambard's Imprisonment and Escape. A.D. 1106

To please the English, Henry imprisoned Flambard, the Minister of Rufus, but a friend conveyed to him a rope concealed in a wine jar, and he escaped and fled to Normandy. Flambard then induced Robert, who had just arrived from Italy, to invade England



Beauclerc's Duplicity. A.D. 1106

Robert, supporting his claims to the throne by force of arms, invaded England, and was marching on Winchester when he was overtaken by Henry. At a private conference, Robert agreed to resign his claim to the throne in return for a yearly pension of 3,000 marks. This allowance, however, he was forced to resign as ransom to Henry, in whose power he had unsuspectingly placed himself. Afterwards Robert again tried to force his claim, and lost his coronet and freedom at the battle of Tenchebrai. He was brought to England, and after 30 years' imprisonment died in Cardiff Castle



A Fatal Case of Lampreycitis. A.D. 1135

Henry I died at St. Denis, in Normandy, after an illness of seven days, brought on by eating an excess of lampreys



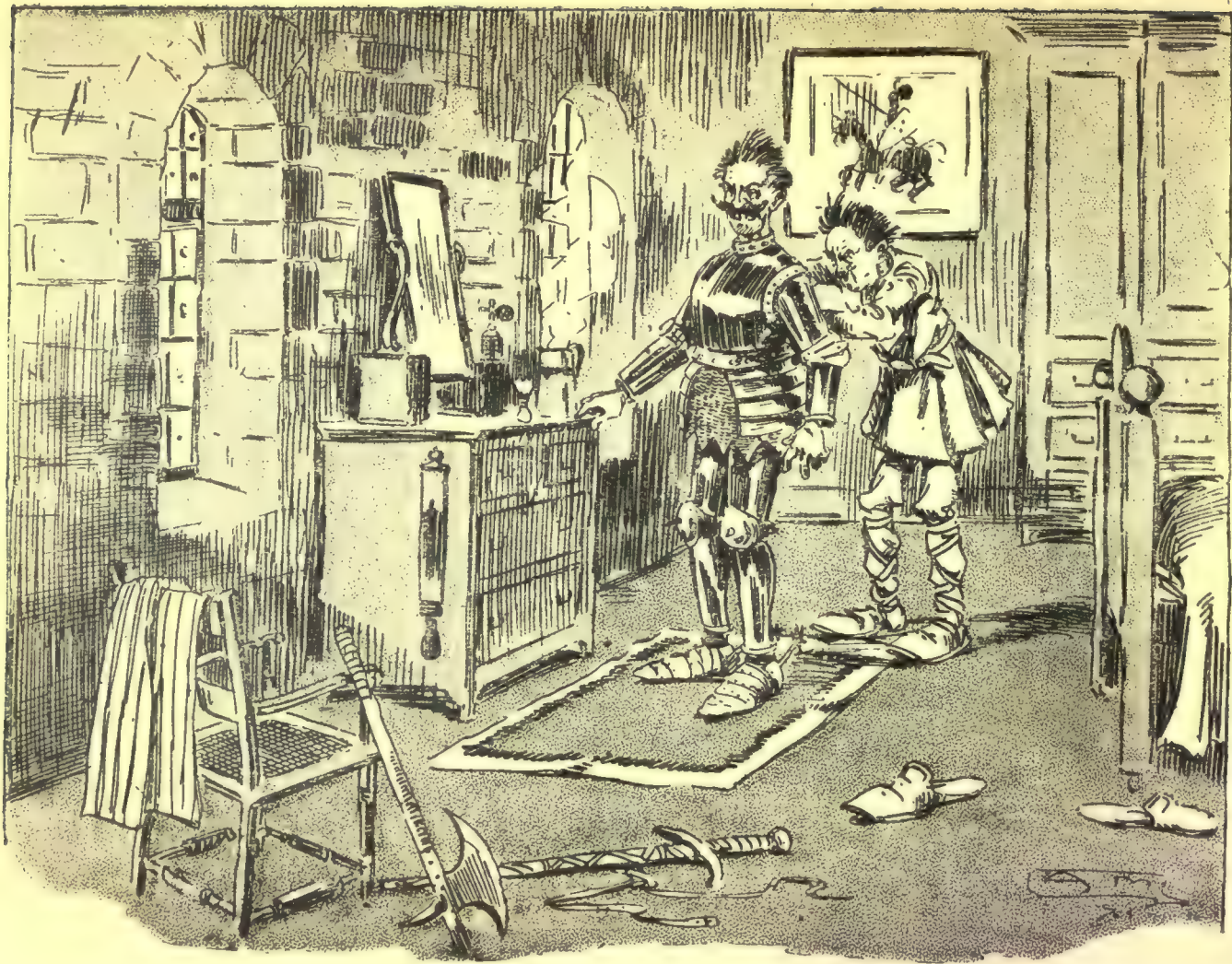
Woollen Clothing Introduced. A.D. 1110

Though Henry Beaclerc was far from a model ruler, his reign saw the introduction of several useful reforms in the condition of the people. Some Flemings, who settled first on the Tweed and afterwards at Haverfordwest and Worsted, introduced the manufacture of woollen, which was at this time first used for clothing. The earlier makes of this useful material were, in all probability, somewhat trying to the skins of the wearers



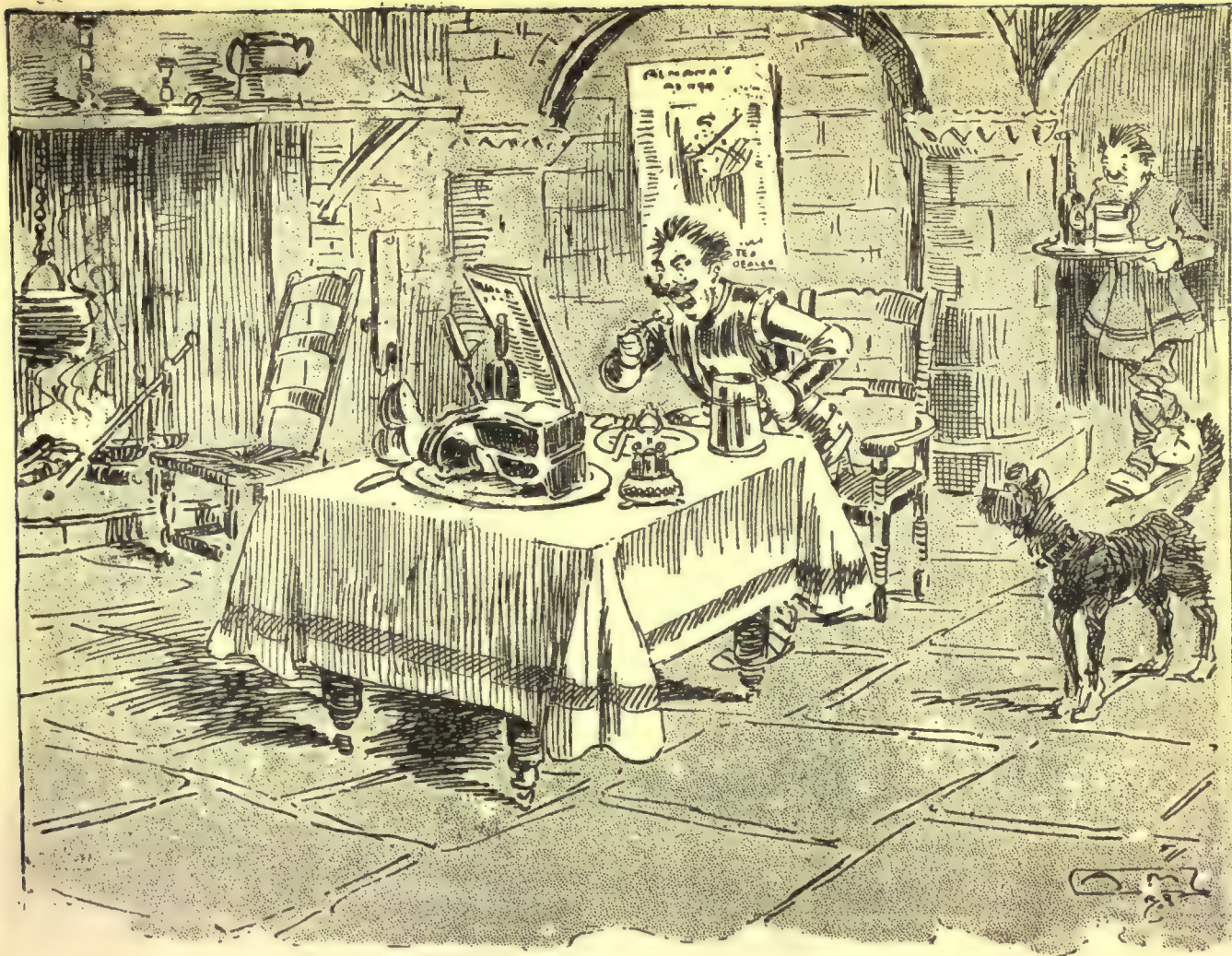
The Court Jester. 12th Century

It was customary at this period for the monarch to have a Jester. This individual had great licence, and nobody, not even the King himself, was exempt from his raillery. It was not recorded whether or not there was any punishment for bad or stale jokes



A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. I.—HE DRESSES



A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. 2.—HE BREAKFASTS



A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. 3.—HE MOUNTS HIS WAR HORSE



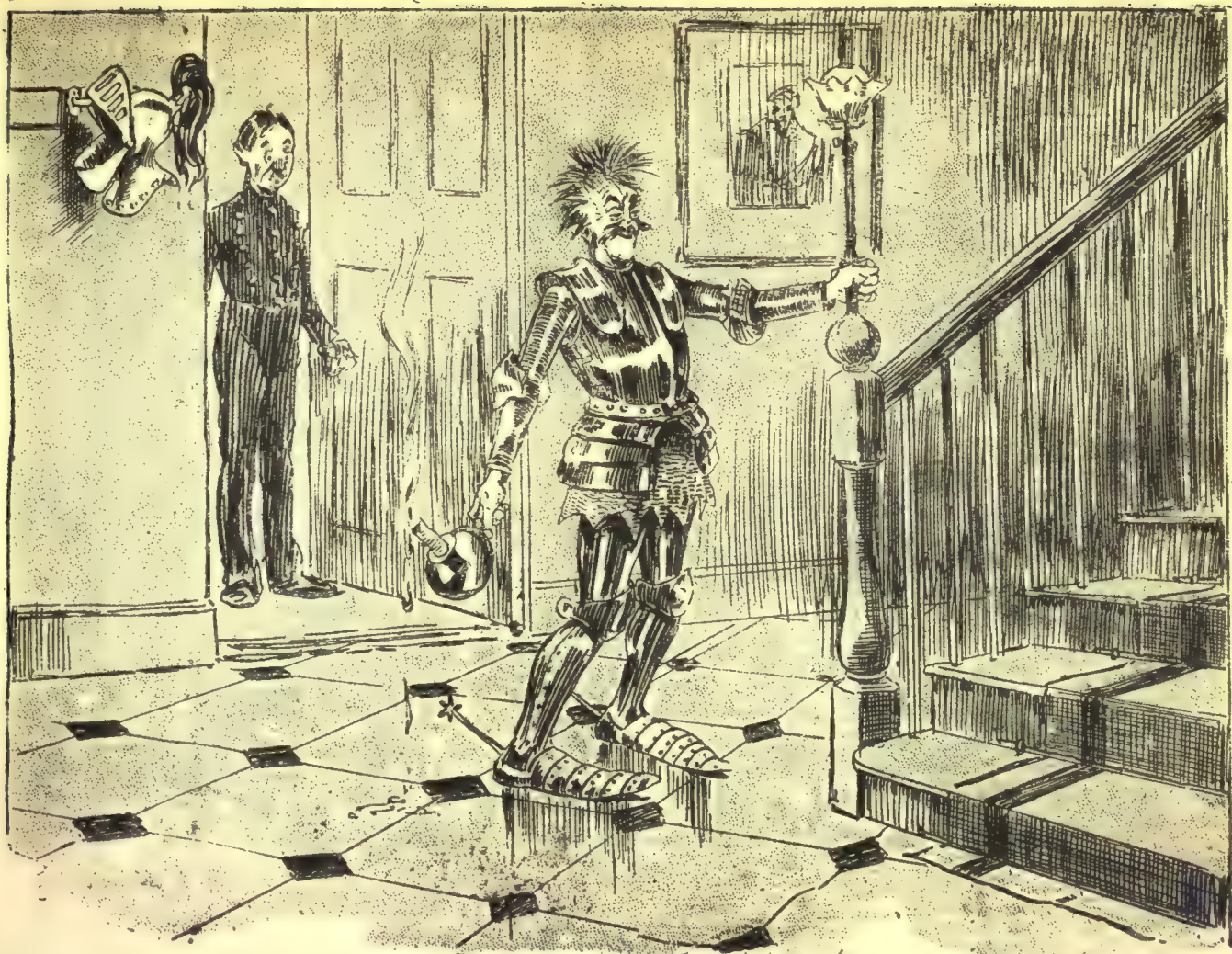
A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. 4.—HE GOES TO BUSINESS



A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. 5.—HE MEETS A NEIGHBOUR



A Day in the Life of a Twelfth Century Feudal Baron

No. 6.—HE GOES TO BED



Women's Rights. A.D. 1135

On the death of Henry, Stephen (son of the Conqueror's daughter who had married the Earl of Blois) claimed the throne in opposition to Maud—or Matilda—the daughter of Henry. Stephen gained the support of the Barons by granting them the privilege of hunting in their own forests, and of building new castles on their estates. He also promised to abolish the Danegeld in his next Budget, and to preserve the rights of the clergy. Matilda, enraged by being defrauded of her right to the crown, sought the aid of David, King of Scotland, who invaded England



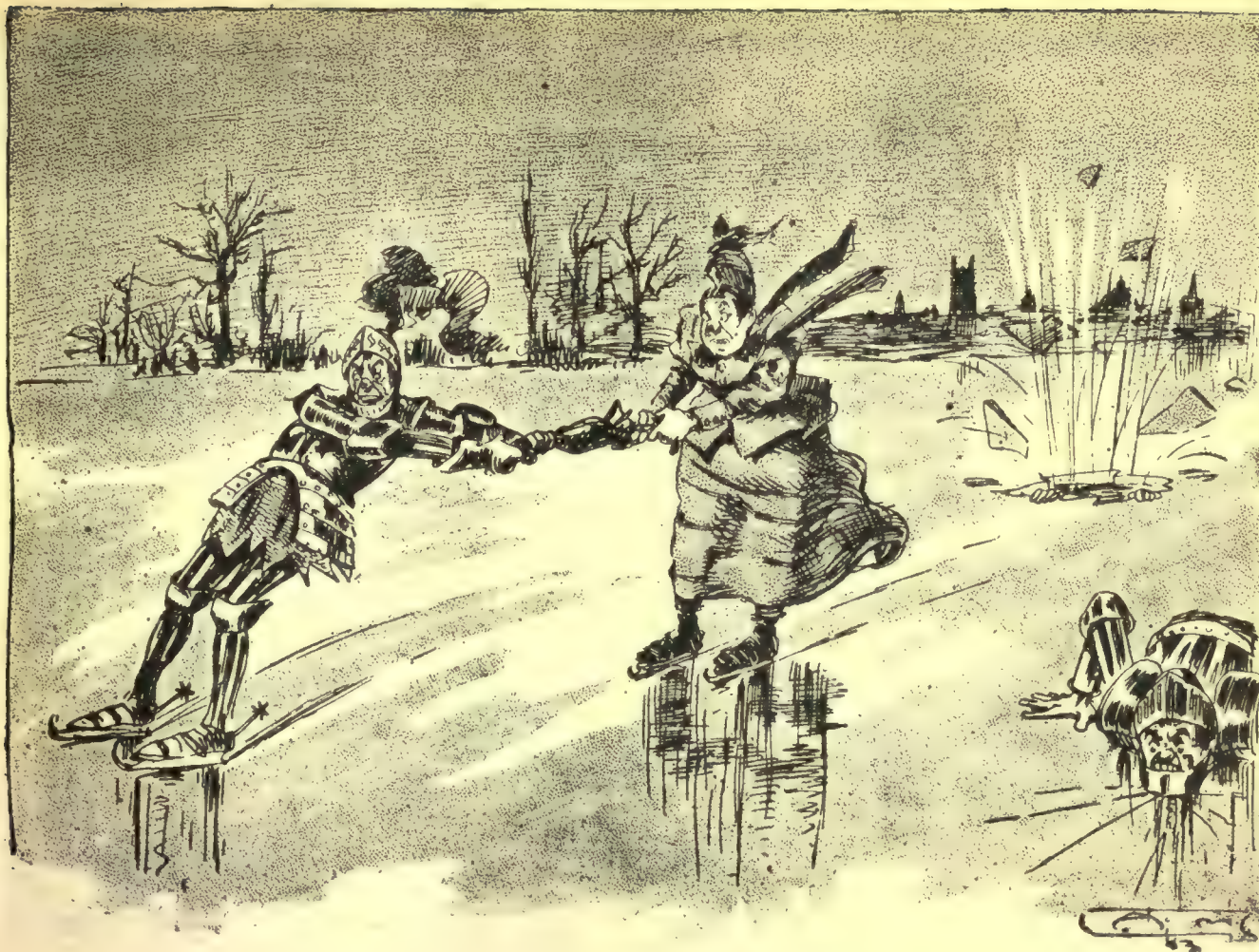
The Battle of the Standard. August 22, 1138

David, the Lion of Scotland, espoused the cause of Matilda and invaded England. He was met at Northallerton by Stephen, and there was fought the Battle of the Standard. For hours the Scots strove, amid showers of Saxon arrows, to hew their way to victory, but they spent their strength in vain, and at the end 12,000 Scots lay dead



Matilda's Triumph. A.D. 1141

The disaster at Northallerton kept Matilda quiet for three years, when she made another attempt to gain the throne—this time successfully. She landed on the South Coast with 140 followers, and stayed awhile at Arundel Castle. Stephen, with a generosity more chivalrous than wise, permitted her to reach Bristol, the chief stronghold of her brother Robert, Earl of Gloucester. Civil war began, and at the Battle of Lincoln Stephen was brought to the ground by a stone and taken before the triumphant Matilda, who cast him into the dungeons of Bristol Castle



Matilda's Escape. A.D. 1142

Matilda did not long wear the crown. Her overbearing and arrogant disposition alienated her warmest supporters. The men of Kent revolted and entered London, and Matilda fled to Oxford. Her brother Robert was taken prisoner, and to release him Matilda had to set Stephen free. Stephen at once set siege to Oxford, and Matilda held on until far into the winter, when famine forced her to leave the town. With three knights she fled over the snow, crossed the Thames on the ice, and after holding Gloucester for awhile, she retired to Normandy



A Settlement. A.D. 1152

The long-continued strife between Matilda and Stephen was brought to an end by the death of Stephen's son Eustace, who died mad. Stephen acknowledged Henry, the son of Matilda, heir to the throne, and died in less than a year afterwards



12th Century Chivalry

The Norman period was remarkable for the development of chivalry. All—from the poorest gentleman to the King—went through the grades of knighthood. Each served first as page, then as esquire, before he received his golden spurs and took the vows of knighthood. The night before this ceremony the candidate for knightly honours held his vigil—by keeping a lonely and silent watch within some dark chapel among the tombs over the arms he was about to assume



The Accolade

The last process in the making of a knight was the accolade or blow with the flat of the sword, wherewith the King conferred the dignity



The Tournament

The chief amusement of the knights was the tournament, which was held within an enclosed space called the lists. The King, his nobles, and their ladies, sat round in raised galleries, while the people thronged outside the barriers to witness the sport, which consisted of two or more knights riding from opposite ends of the lists and meeting in the centre with lance, sword, or battle-axe. The victor could claim the horse and armour of his opponent.



The First Plantagenet's Coronation. A.D. 1154

Henry II, the first of the Plantagenet line, began to reign in 1154. He was crowned at Westminster, and shortly afterwards entered the City in state, accompanied by his wife Eleanor



The Undoing of the Barons. A.D. 1155

Henry II began his reign by curtailing the power of the barons. He caused nearly 1,500 of their castles to be dismantled



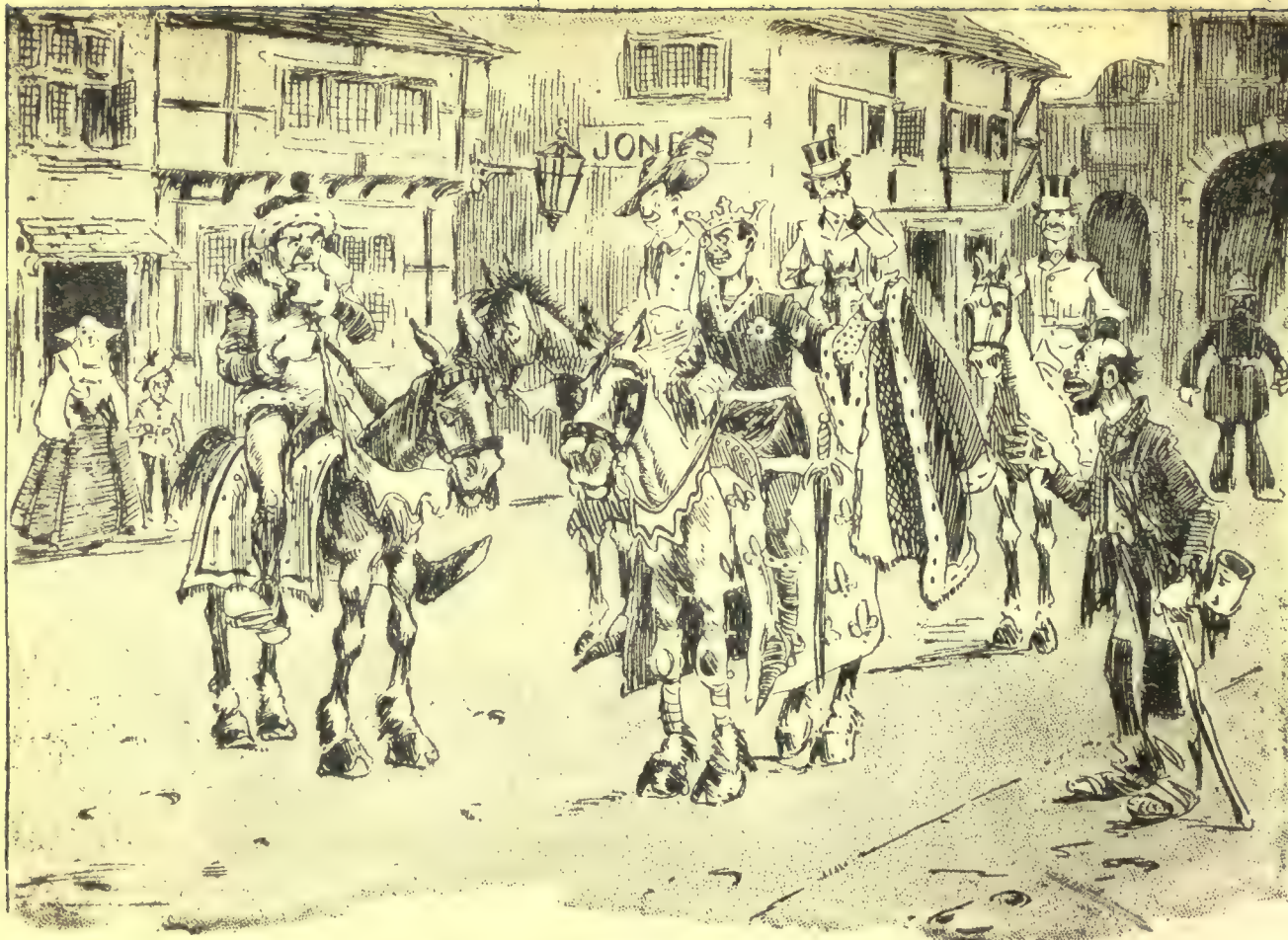
The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 1

The most important personage of Henry II's reign was Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. His father, Gilbert à Becket, was taken prisoner by the Saracens, and while in prison won the affections of a Saracen maiden, who assisted him to escape



The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 2

The fidelity of the Saracen maid enabled Gilbert à Becket to make his way to London, where he speedily forgot all about the girl he had left behind him. But she, with the aid of two words of English, "London" and "Gilbert," followed him. The first procured her a passage on a ship bound for England, and by calling the second through the streets she ultimately found her lover. They were married, and the celebrated Thomas à Becket was their son



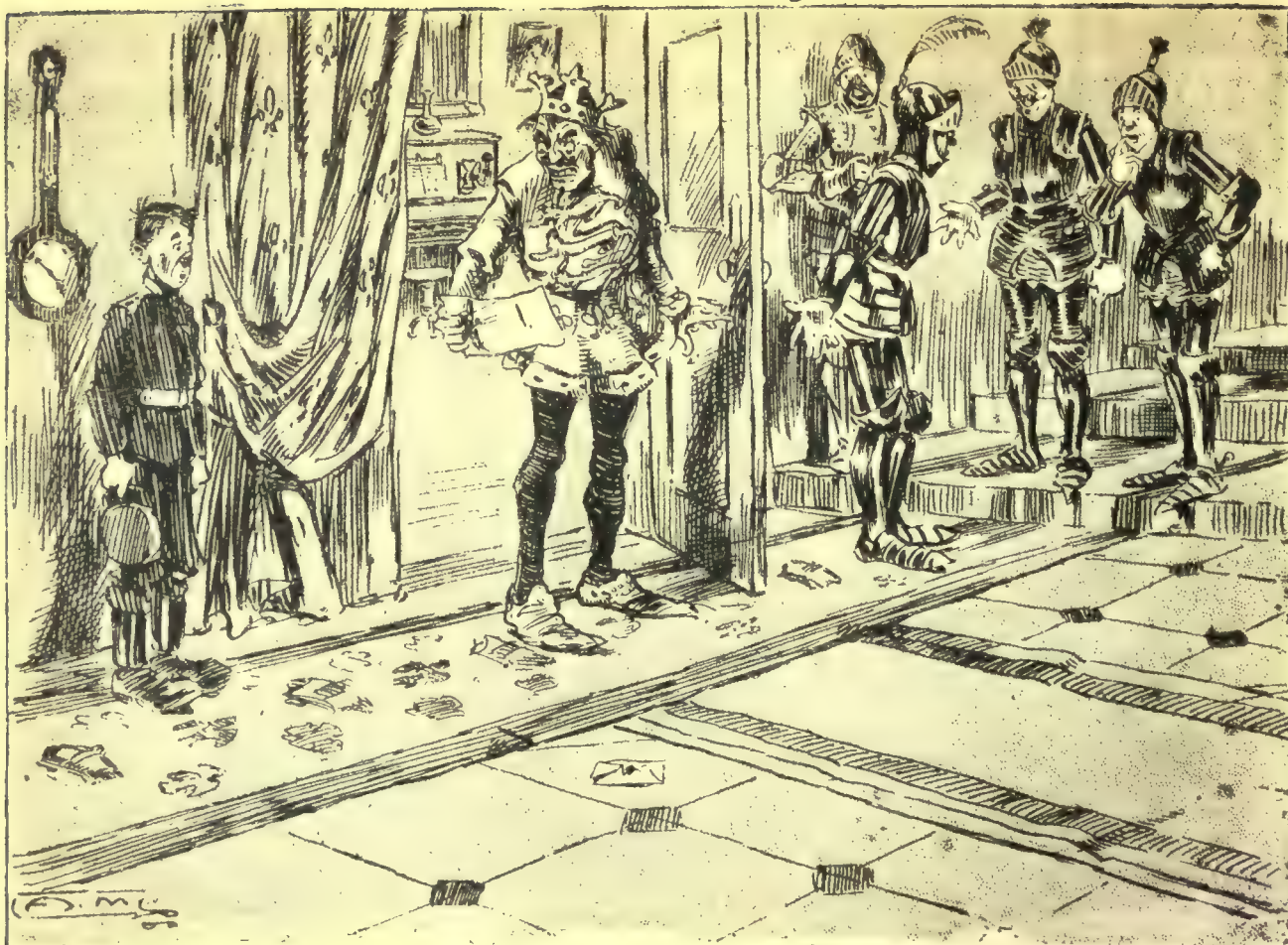
The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 3

After Becket became attached to the Court he rose high in the King's favour. He was remarkable for the gorgeousness of his dress and the extent of his establishment. There is a story that one day in winter when he was riding through London with the King, His Majesty pointed to a beggar by the roadside, and remarked that "it would be a charity to give the poor man a nice warm cloak." "It would, sire," said Becket, "and it is to your Majesty's honour to think of such Christian duties." "Well, then," said the King, "give him yours; 'tis warmer than mine," and the King plucked Becket's cloak from his shoulders and handed it to the beggar



The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 4

About this time the clergy gave the King a deal of trouble. They refused to submit to the civil law, claiming the right to ecclesiastical courts. The King, with the idea of curtailing their power, appointed Becket Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket no sooner became Archbishop than he changed his mode of life, eating coarse food, and wearing sackcloth instead of silk and velvet, while his sole apartment was a miserable damp cell. It is said that he added to his discomfort by sitting between the window and the door



The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 5

The King was much enraged when he discovered that Becket, instead of supporting his authority against the priests, was doing the exact opposite. The struggle between the Sovereign and the Archbishop went on for years, until at last, when the King, who was in Normandy at the time, heard that the Archbishop had excommunicated a batch of the King's friends, matters came to a crisis. The King, in the heat of the moment, said, "Are there none of the cowards eating my bread who will rid me of this insolent priest?" Four knights, who overheard him, left for England, travelled to Canterbury, where they burst into the cathedral and slew Becket on the steps of the altar



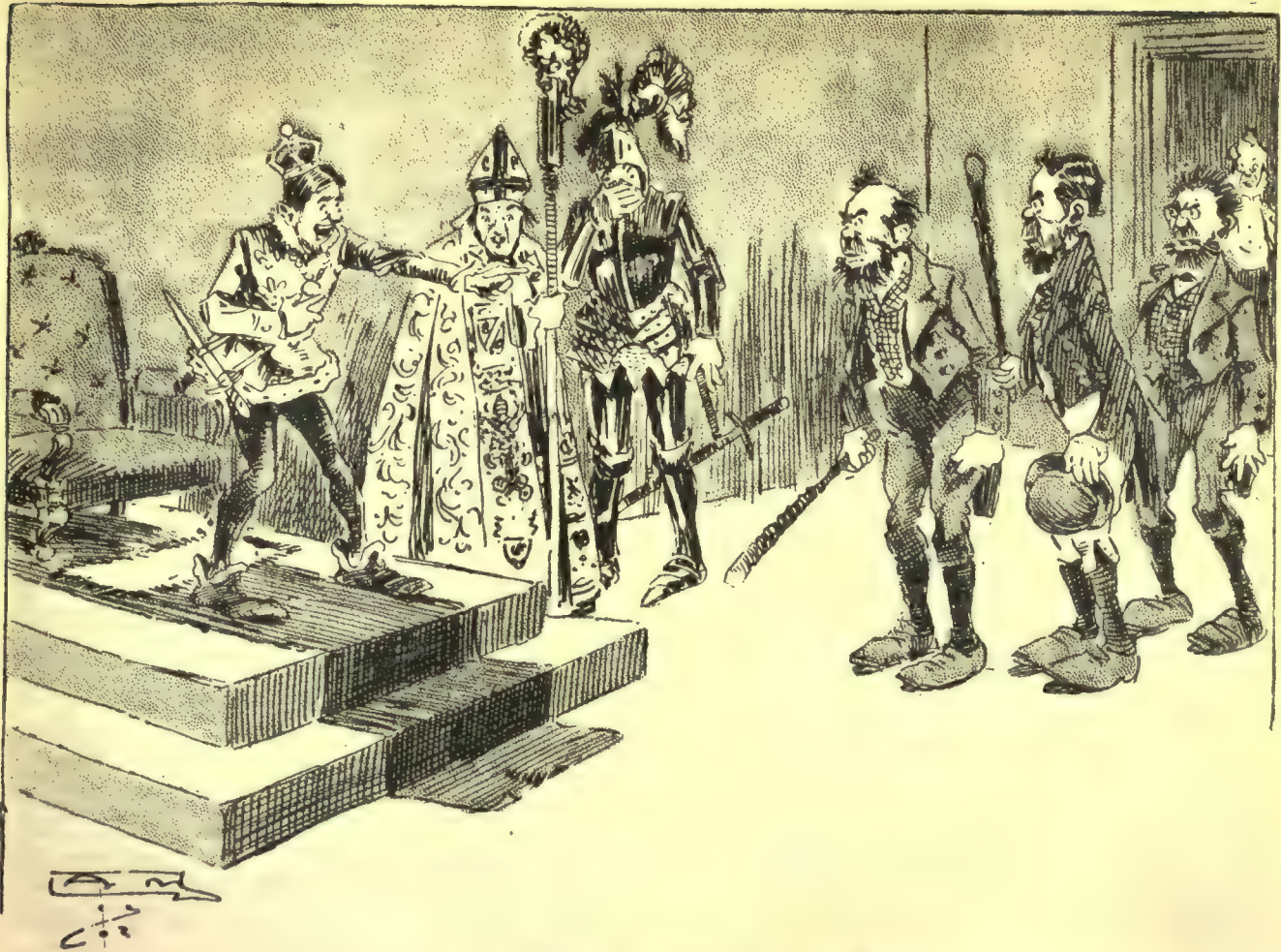
The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 6

The King's sorrow, when he heard of Becket's death, was terrible to see. He made a pilgrimage to the tomb at Canterbury, and was there publicly whipped by the priests as a penance



The Story of Thomas à Becket. No. 7

After his penance at Canterbury the King came to London, and as a crowning act of self-mortification, he walked through the principal streets clad only in his shirt



The Troubles of Ireland. A.D. 1172

The chief event of Henry II's reign was the annexation of Ireland, which was conquered after much hard fighting. Henry appointed his son, Prince John, a boy of twelve, to the lordship of Ireland. The foolish boy mocked the Irish chieftains as they came to pay homage. This treatment led to revolts, the results of which were that the ultimate subjugation of Ireland took many years to accomplish



The Story of Fair Rosamond. A.D. 1182

One of the romances of the time was the flirtation between Henry II and the lady called, on account of her great beauty, "Fair Rosamond." Queen Eleanor was jealous and paid a surprise visit to Rosamond's bower, bearing with her a dagger and a bowl of poison, of which she bade the lady make a selection. The story is that Rosamond preferred the poison, drank it, and subsequently died



Glass Windows. A.D. 1180

During the reign of Henry II, who died in 1189, commerce was much extended, and a regular system of exports and imports was instituted. Glass was first used for windows in private houses in A.D. 1180



Richard I and the Jews. A.D. 1189

Richard I, surnamed Cœur-de-Lion, began to reign in 1189. His great aim in life was to conquer Palestine, and with this object in view he raided the Jews, who were the bankers of the age. They suffered terrible woes at his hands, and their possessions were plundered without mercy



Cœur-de-Lion and the Saracens. A.D. 1191

With the money extorted from the Jews, added to the hoards of his predecessor, Richard Cœur-de-Lion fitted out a great expedition to the Holy Land. He joined Philip Augustus of France, and the united armies numbered 100,000 men. After various delays in Sicily and Cyprus, Richard arrived before Acre, which soon surrendered. From Acre the Crusaders went on to Jaffa, and Saladin, who strove to impede Richard's march, suffered a severe defeat at his hands.



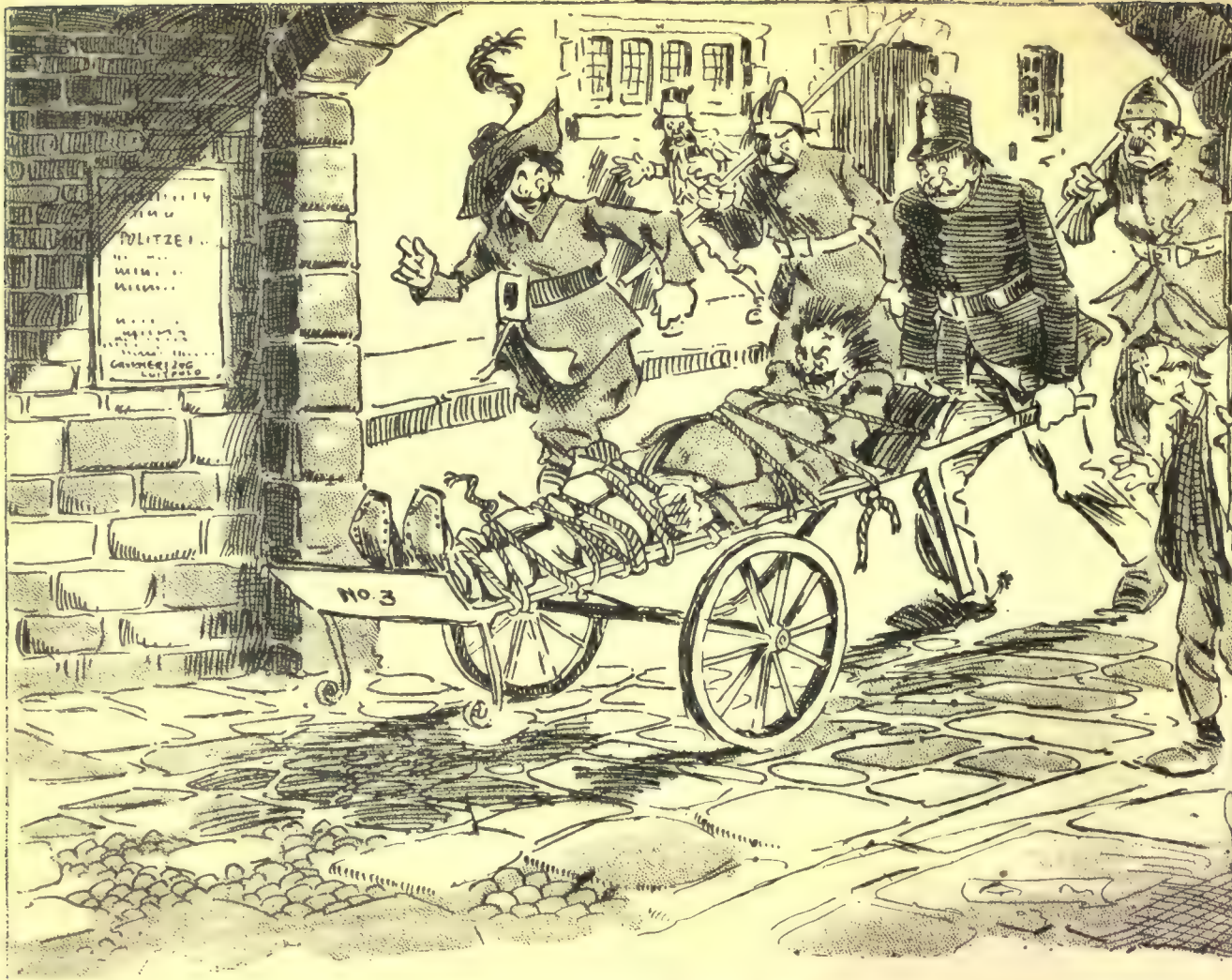
Richard and Duke Leopold. A.D. 1191

There was much bickering and petty jealousy amongst the Crusaders. Soon after the fall of Acre the King of France, on the pretence of ill-health, went home, and Richard, having no one else to squabble with, fell foul of Duke Leopold of Austria, to whom he gave a thrashing in the public street



Those Fatal Gloves. A.D. 1192

After suffering untold hardships Richard and his army arrived within sight of Jerusalem, but he was forced to abandon the siege, as his forces were not strong enough. On his way home he was wrecked on the northern shore of the Gulf of Venice, and resolved to cross the Continent in disguise. He reached Vienna in safety, but there the imprudence of his servant, in wearing gloves when entering the town to buy provisions, betrayed him into the hands of Duke Leopold, who had his beating to avenge



Capture of Richard. A.D. 1193

The folly of Richard's servant had an unfortunate sequel. Knowing that it must be some one of importance who had a manservant wearing gloves, the emissaries of the Duke of Austria followed the man and arrested the master



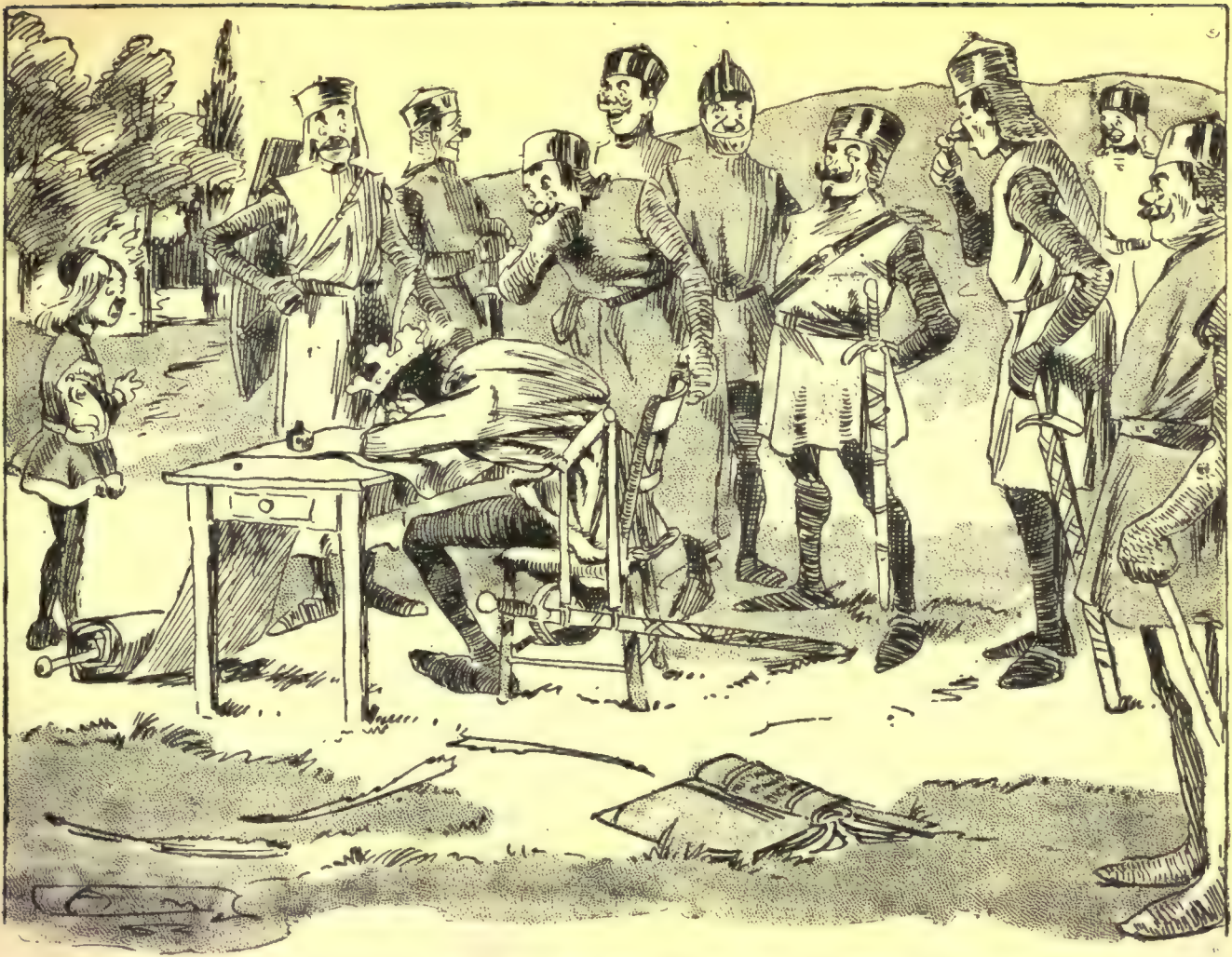
Richard's Captivity. A.D. 1193

The Duke of Austria imprisoned Richard in the Castle of Deimstein, and then invited the Emperor Henry VI to view his prize. The Emperor came, purchased the chained Lion for £60,000, and imprisoned him in a castle in the Tyrol



Blondel. A.D. 1194

There is a legend that a French minstrel named Blondel discovered the place of Richard's captivity. Wandering through the land, he happened to strike his harp to an air of Richard's own composing. Richard joined in, and Blondel, recognizing the voice, took the news to England. After much debate, a ransom was fixed, and 100,000 marks were wrung from the people. The remaining five years of Richard's reign were mainly spent in wars with France. He died in 1199 from the effects of a wound received at the siege of the castle of Chalus.



"John—his Mark." June 15, A.D. 1215

John, the brother of Richard Cœur-de-Lion, succeeded to the throne on the death of that monarch. He distinguished himself in the usual way, by tyranny and oppression. He incurred the displeasure of the powerful Barons by importing foreigners, to whom he gave the offices of State. At length the Barons swore to suffer no longer, and when John heard their demands he cried, "As well may they ask my crown." For reply, the Barons seized London, and forced the King to compliance. At Runnymede he signed Magna Charta, which conferred lasting benefits on the English people.



John Passes the Wash. A.D. 1216

John was bound by solemn oaths to keep the Charter, but he was of a strangely elastic disposition. Having no troops at his command whom he could trust, he raised an army of mercenaries and began to burn and destroy. The Barons called on Louis of France for help. Louis landed at Sandwich, and John was marching to meet him, but when passing the Wash his regalia and money and the records of the kingdom were swept away by the tide. He died soon after at Newark, some say by poison; others allege that an overdose of new ale and peaches accounted for his end.



The First Lord Mayor's Day. 13th Century

The reign of King John saw the inauguration of the custom of annually electing the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London.
In all probability Henry Fitzalwyn, the first Lord Mayor, gave the first Lord Mayor's banquet



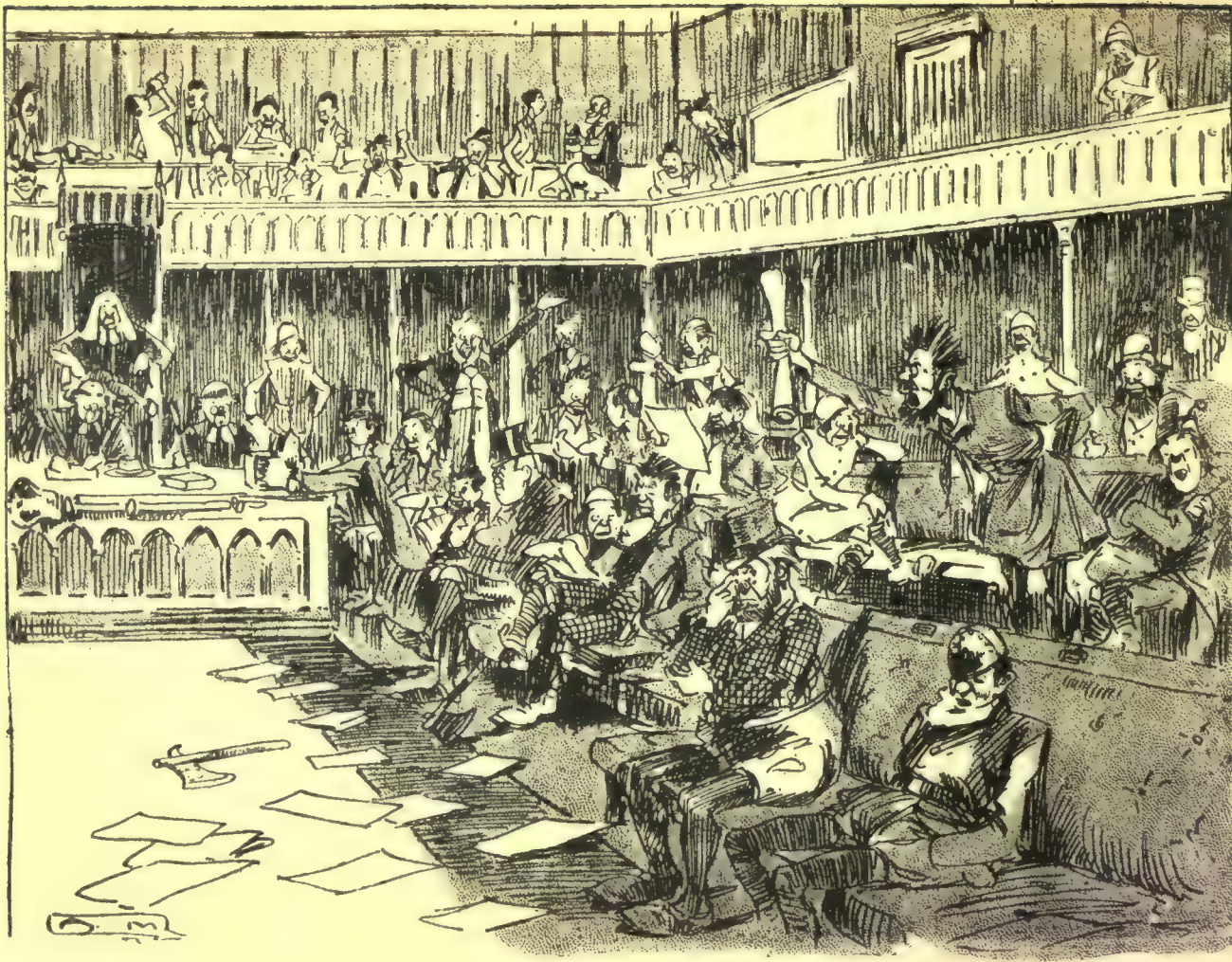
A Youthful Monarch. A.D. 1216

At the death of John the Barons rallied round his young son Henry, who was crowned at Gloucester with a plain golden circlet, the crown having been lost in the waves of the Wash. The King being only 10 years old, the Earl of Pembroke was appointed Regent and guardian of the young King



The Jews again in Trouble. A.D. 1264

In common with his ancestors, Henry III, when in want of money, turned to the unhappy Jews. It is said that he imprisoned a number of wealthy Israelites, and extracted their teeth one by one until they gave in and ransomed the remainder by disgorging their riches



"The House." A.D. 1265

In the reign of Henry III that institution which is the admiration and envy of the civilized world, the British House of Commons, came into existence



Frontal Attack on Llewellyn. A.D. 1282

Edward the First—called Longshanks—succeeded Henry III in 1272. He turned his attention to the conquest of Wales, then the grave of many military reputations. For five years the King traversed the land with foreign troops skilled in mountain warfare. Llewellyn, the Welsh chieftain, held out bravely, but his death while defending the passage of the Wye sealed the doom of Welsh independence



A Fatal Eisteddfod. A.D. 1282

The Eisteddfod in 1282 was held by invitation of King Edward I in Conway Castle. It is said that advantage was taken of the opportunity to massacre all the Welsh bards, lest their songs should preserve the spirit of ancient freedom among the people. It is not certain that this murder was actually committed. One argument against it is the fact that the Eisteddfod is still an annual event



The First Prince of Wales. A.D. 1284

After the conquest of Wales Edward I appears to have resided in the country, for in 1284 his son Edward was born in Carnarvon Castle. He was called Prince of Wales, and as such was presented to an assemblage of Welsh chieftains



Bruce and the Spider. A.D. 1292

The Welsh difficulty settled, trouble arose with Scotland. Edward claimed to have a deciding voice in the disposal of the Scottish Crown, and appointed Baliol king. The chief candidate in opposition was Robert Bruce, and a long dispute, varied by occasional skirmishes, arose. A legend says that Bruce obtained inspiration for continued effort to preserve the independence of his country by watching a spider climb up its thread and finally reach the top after repeated failures



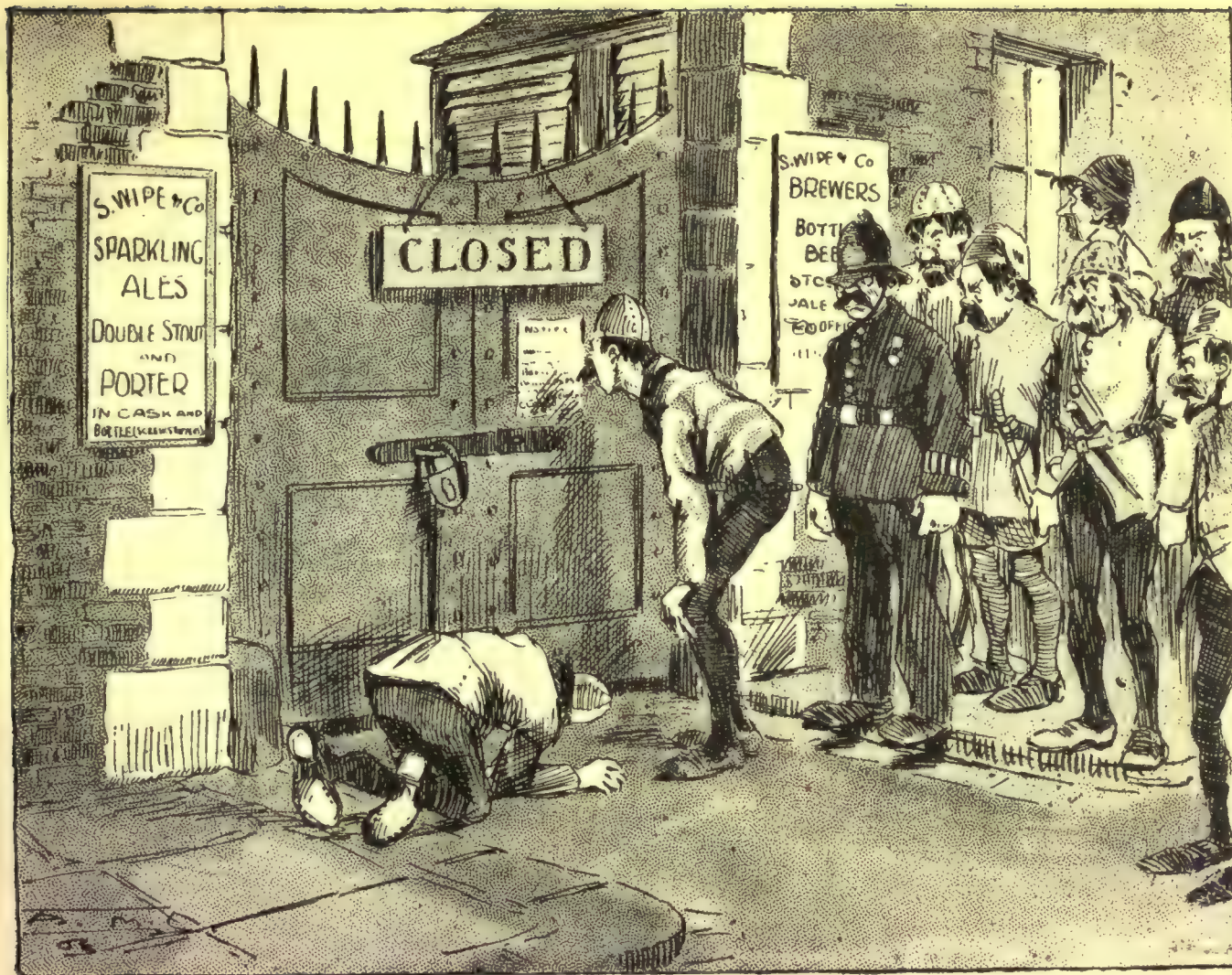
Piers Gaveston and the Barons. A.D. 1307

Edward I died in 1307, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward II. The new king's chief companion and adviser was Piers Gaveston, a Gascon. The Barons grew jealous of Gaveston's power, and he in his turn insulted, ridiculed, and played practical jokes on them. However, his victims got level with him in a grim fashion peculiar to the times. A number of them, headed by the Earl of Lancaster, seized him at Scarborough Castle and cut off his head



The Advance of the Scots at Bannockburn. June 24, A.D. 1314

Scotland now claimed Edward's attention. Bruce captured Linlithgow, Roxburgh, Edinburgh, and Perth. To save Stirling, which was closely invested, Edward marched northward. Bruce, with 30,000 men, met and routed Edward on the field of Bannockburn



Hard Times. A.D. 1314

The years 1314-15 were darkened by the miseries of famine. Even the royal table was scantily supplied with bread. The poor fed on roots, horses, and dogs. The breweries were stopped, to prevent the waste of grain



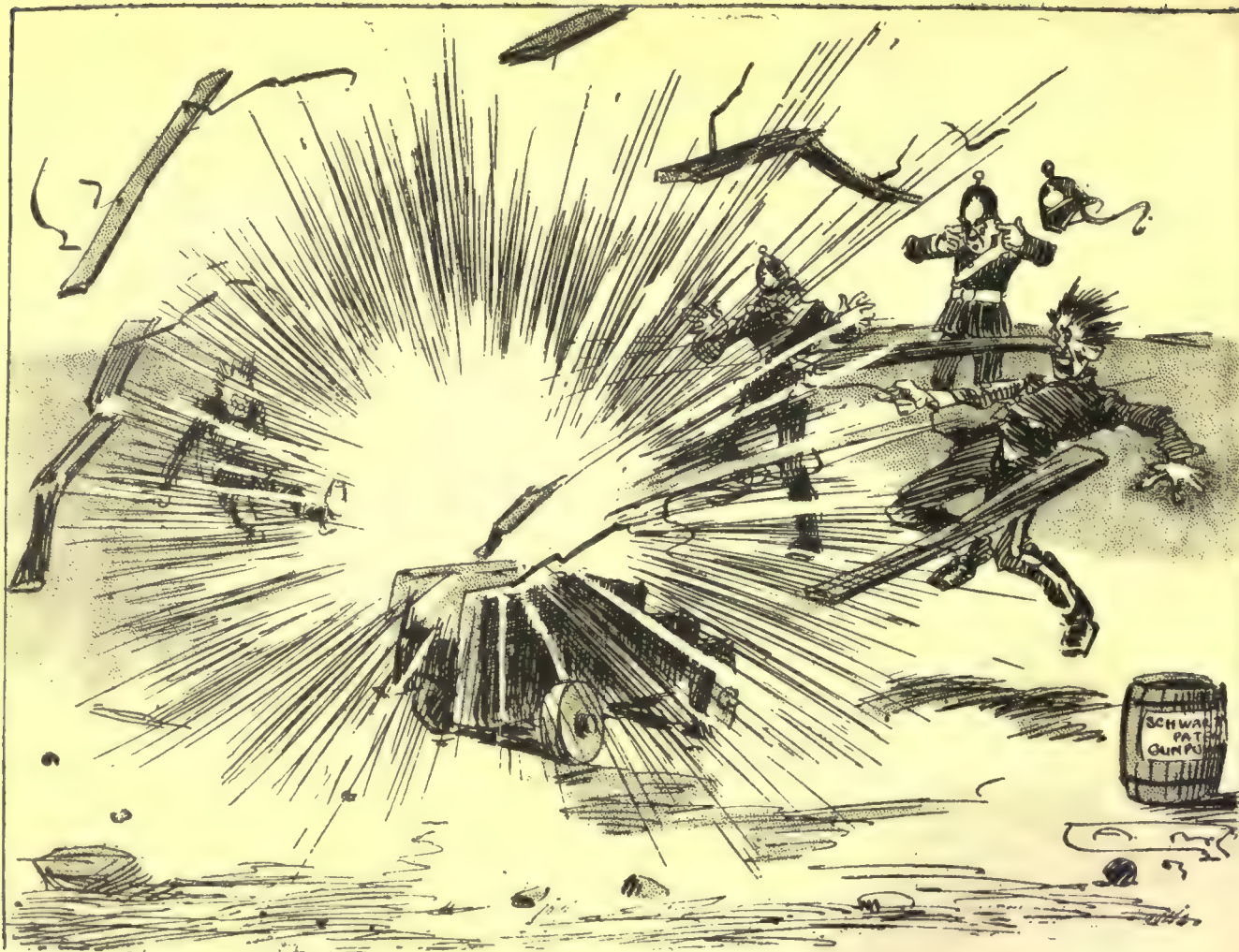
Gunpowder Discovered

Edward II having died, Edward III, his son, came to the throne at the age of fifteen. Early in the reign Schwarz, a German monk, discovered gunpowder. Roger Bacon, an Englishman, had made some chemical researches in the same direction, but the credit for the really successful article must go to Schwarz



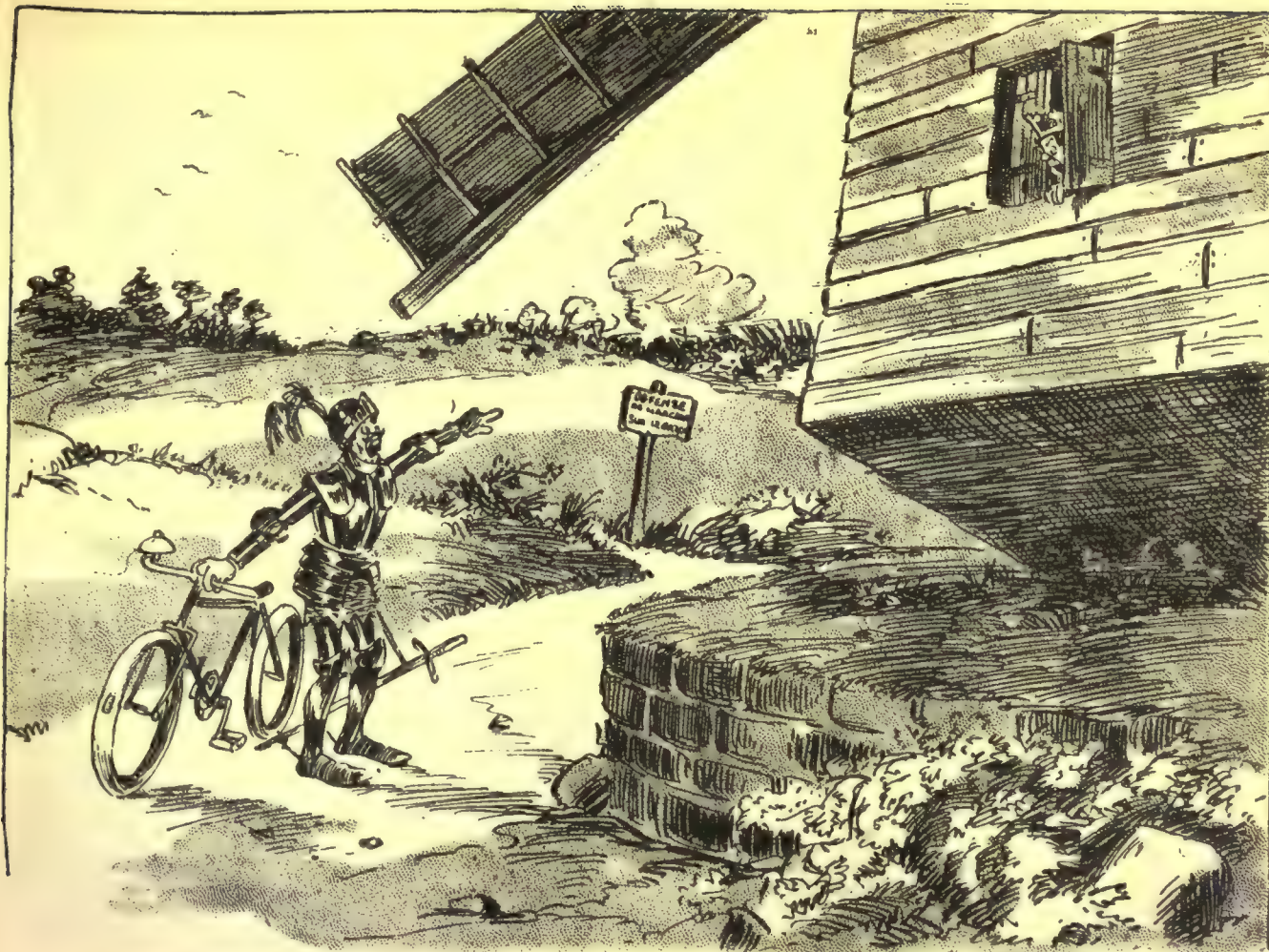
An Incident on the Morning of Crecy. August 26, A.D. 1346

The War Office of 1346 was evidently more wideawake than that of the present day, for we are told that although gunpowder had only just been discovered, cannon were used at the Battle of Crecy, and that a French outpost was surprised by the British artillery. This is supposed to be the first instance of the use of firearms in war



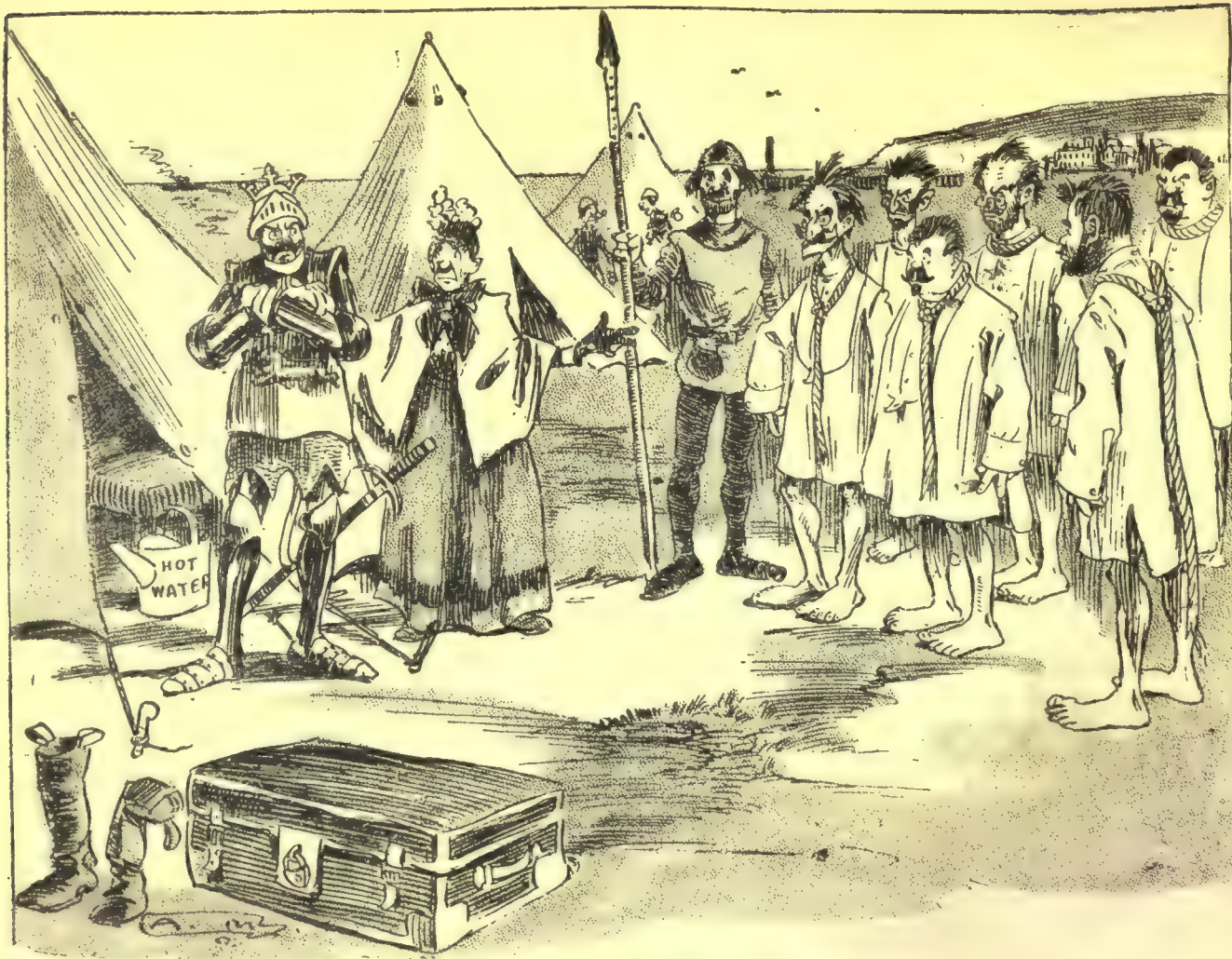
The "R.A." A.D. 1346

The first cannon were made of wooden staves bound with iron



The Prince of Wales wins his Spurs. A.D. 1346

King Edward III, it is reported, watched the battle of Crecy from a windmill. The Prince of Wales, a lad of fifteen, was sorely pressed in front of the battle, and an urgent request for reinforcements was sent to the King. "No," said Edward, "let the boy win his spurs; his shall be the glory of the day." The French were defeated—with a loss of eleven princes, twelve hundred knights, and thirty thousand soldiers



The Six Burgesses of Calais. A.D. 1347

After the battle of Crecy Edward at once invested Calais. The siege lasted nearly a year, and then, overcome by famine, the garrison surrendered. "Tell your general," said the King to the messengers who came out of the town, "that I require to have sent here six of the most distinguished citizens, bare-legged and in their shirts, with ropes about their necks, and let those six men bring with them the keys of the castle and of the town." When the citizens arrived Edward received them wrathfully, and ordered them to instant execution. However, the Queen besought the King to give them up to her. The King replied, "I wish you had been somewhere else; but I cannot refuse you." So she had them properly dressed, and sent them back, each with a handsome present



Magnanimity of the Black Prince. A.D. 1356

Ten years after Crecy another great victory was gained over the French at Poitiers ; 10,000 English under the command of the Black Prince totally defeated and took prisoner the King of France, in spite of his army of 70,000 men. After the battle it is related that the Black Prince entertained the French King to supper in his tent and waited upon him at table



Pedro the Cruel entertains the Black Prince. A.D. 1374

About this time the Black Prince went to Spain to assist King Pedro the Cruel to regain the throne whence he had been driven for his atrocities. Pedro royally entertained the Prince, but, once his end was achieved, forgot all about fulfilling his pecuniary obligations, with the result that the Black Prince returned to England shattered in health and loaded with debt. The Black Prince died in 1375, and was buried in Canterbury Cathedral, where his tomb may still be seen



"Honi Soit qui Mal y Pense"

The Order of the Garter was instituted in the reign of Edward III. The King is said to have picked up a lady's garter at a ball, and to have said "Honi soit qui mal y pense"—in English, "Evil be to him who evil thinks." In this slight incident the famous Order is supposed to have originated



Coronation Festivities. A.D. 1377

At the Coronation of Richard II, who succeeded his grandfather, Edward III, the Lord Mayor of London erected in Cheapside a fountain running wine



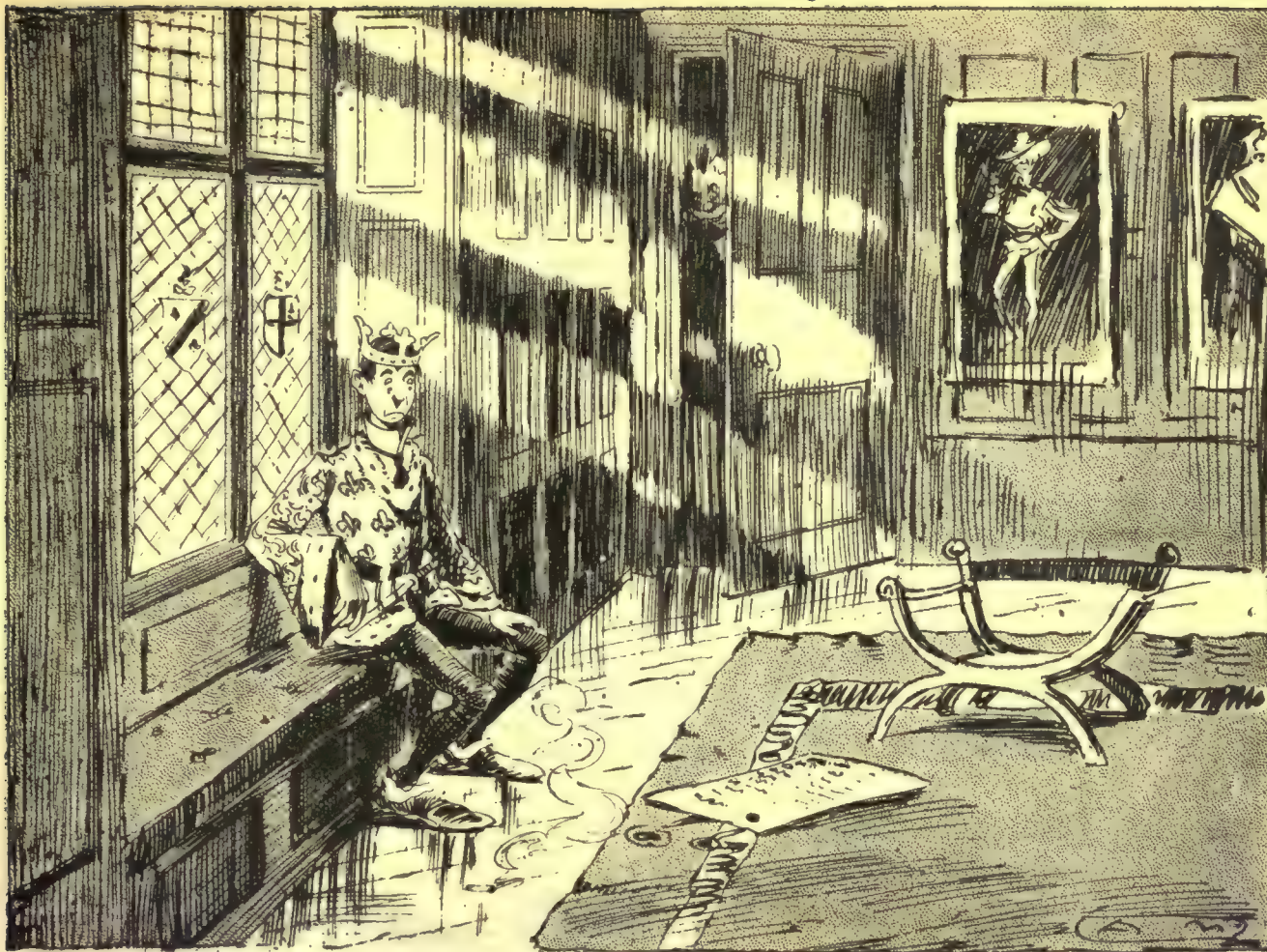
Increase of Vagrancy. A.D. 1377

The War with France, begun by the Black Prince, being still unsettled in the reign of his son, Richard II, money was needed to provide for its prosecution. Accordingly a tax, called the Poll-tax, was levied on the people. Every person in the kingdom, male and female, above fourteen had to pay three groats a year; the clergy were charged more, and only beggars were exempt. Walking tours were immediately undertaken by most of the population



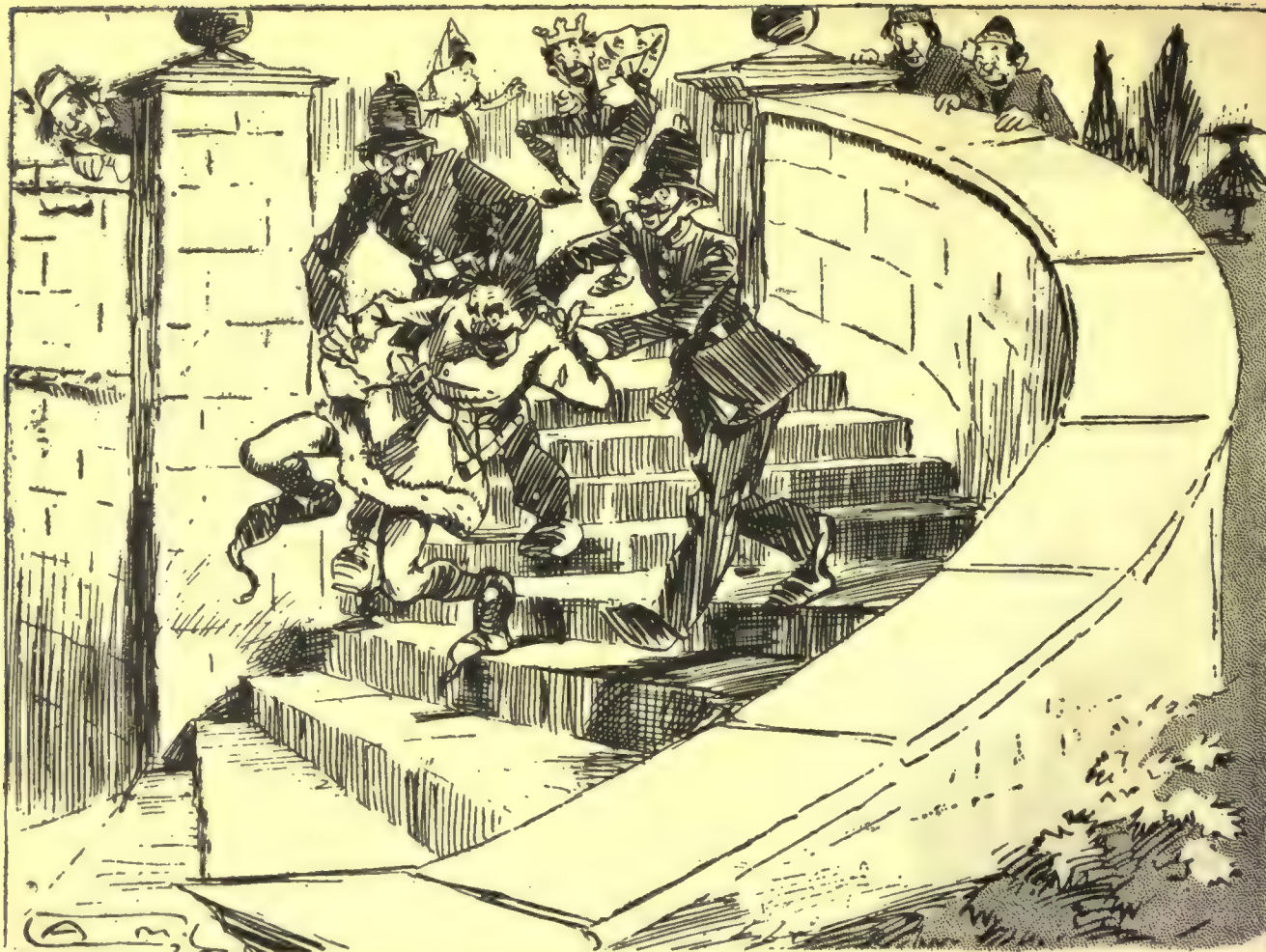
Wat Tyler at Mile End. A.D. 1377

The Poll-tax was the cause of a rising in Essex and Kent. Sixty thousand men, roughly armed, led by Wat Tyler, marched on London. The young King met the rioters at Mile End and granted their demands, one of which was that the rent of land should be fourpence an acre; but next day the King held a conference in Smithfield with Tyler, who had 20,000 men with him. The rebel leader, happening to lay his hand on his dagger, was stabbed by Walworth, the Lord Mayor. The death of Tyler put an end to the rising, and though pardon was promised, fifteen hundred rebels were gibbeted



Richard the Second's Uncles. A.D. 1388

Having commenced his reign at the age of eleven, Richard found himself at twenty-one still in the leading strings of his uncles, the Dukes of Lancaster and Gloucester. He made several ineffectual attempts to obtain the power to govern his kingdom, but his Grace of Gloucester, with forty thousand men to back him, enforced his arguments, with the result that the King's supporters were impeached and executed to a man, and the King was obliged to appoint a Government composed of fourteen nobles, with the Duke of Gloucester as president



Arrest of the Duke of Gloucester. A.D. 1389

Gloucester's power did not last long ; one day the King plucked up courage, seized a favourable opportunity, and deposed him and his friends from their office. Some time afterwards the Duke gave a garden party at Pleshey Castle, his place in Essex, which the King attended. While His Majesty conversed pleasantly with the Duchess the Duke was suddenly seized, hurried away, and shipped to Calais, where he died suddenly—some say through being placed between two feather beds.



A Ducal Disagreement. A.D. 1398

The Duke of Gloucester disposed of, Richard still had two dangerous opponents in the Dukes of Norfolk and Hereford. He skilfully brought about a quarrel between them, Hereford at a council declaring that his Grace of Norfolk had lately held treasonable talk with him. The Duke denied the charge, and expressed his opinion that Hereford was a perverter of the truth. The King settled the matter by banishing Hereford for ten years and Norfolk for life



Richard's Trip from Wales to London. September 30, 1399

In 1399 Richard II led an expedition against the Irish, and, taking advantage of his absence, Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Hereford, returned from exile. When Richard came home from Ireland, he found himself a prisoner in the hands of the man he had banished. He was led, mounted on a wretched horse, to London, deposed from the throne, and lodged in the Tower, where he died mysteriously. Hereford, who was the son of John of Gaunt and the King's cousin, assumed the crown as Henry IV



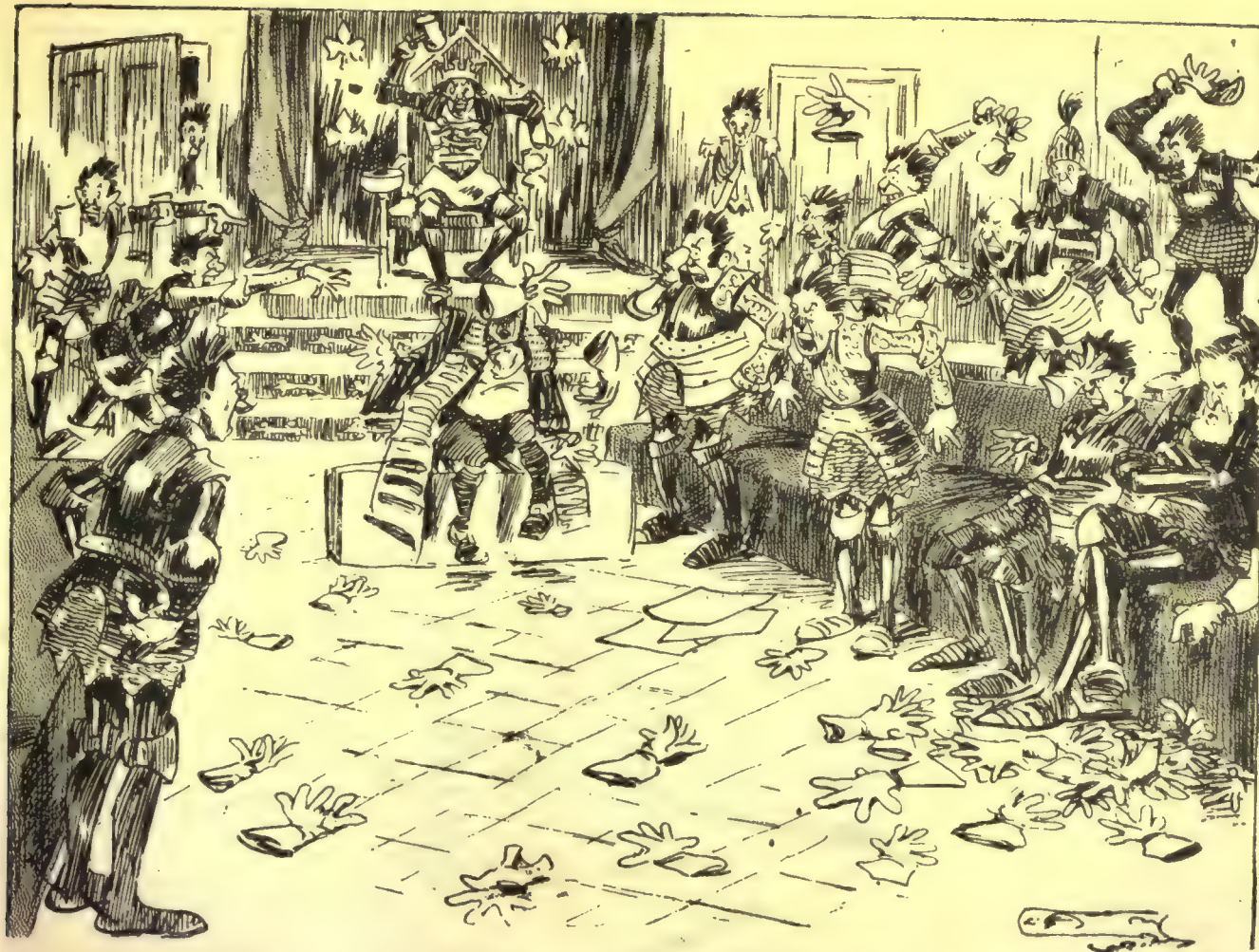
Canterbury Pilgrims at "The Tabard," 14th Century

The *Tabard Inn*, in Southwark, was the starting place for the yearly pilgrimages to the shrine of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. All sorts and conditions of men journeyed in company—presumably for protection—but there is a strong suspicion that the pilgrims made the proceedings rather more jocular than devout. Chaucer's personally conducted party included, besides himself, a knight and his squire, a reeve, a lawyer, a sailor, a prioress, two nuns, a doctor, a pardoner, a monk, a friar, a summoner, a clerk of "Oxenford," a merchant, a franklin, a canon, and a lady from Bath—truly a mixed company



The Canterbury Pilgrims

The pilgrims starting from the *Tabard Inn*, Southwark, whence they proceeded by what is now known as Old Kent Road over Blackheath, through Rochester to Canterbury, taking sometimes four or five days for the journey



"Uproar in the Lords." A.D. 1399

Henry IV—Bolingbroke—now sat on the throne. Early in the reign there was a memorable scene in the House of Lords, when as many as forty gauntlets were flung on the floor of the House as challenges. Nobody seems to know exactly what the quarrelling was about, except that each man considered himself more loyal than his neighbour, and said so



Disposing of the Earl of March. A.D. 1399

Henry IV had no real right to the crown. Edward Mortimer, the young Earl of March, who was eight or nine years old, and was descended from the Duke of Clarence—the eldest brother of Henry's father—was, by succession, the real heir to the throne. Henry, to make his position secure, imprisoned the young Earl in Windsor Castle



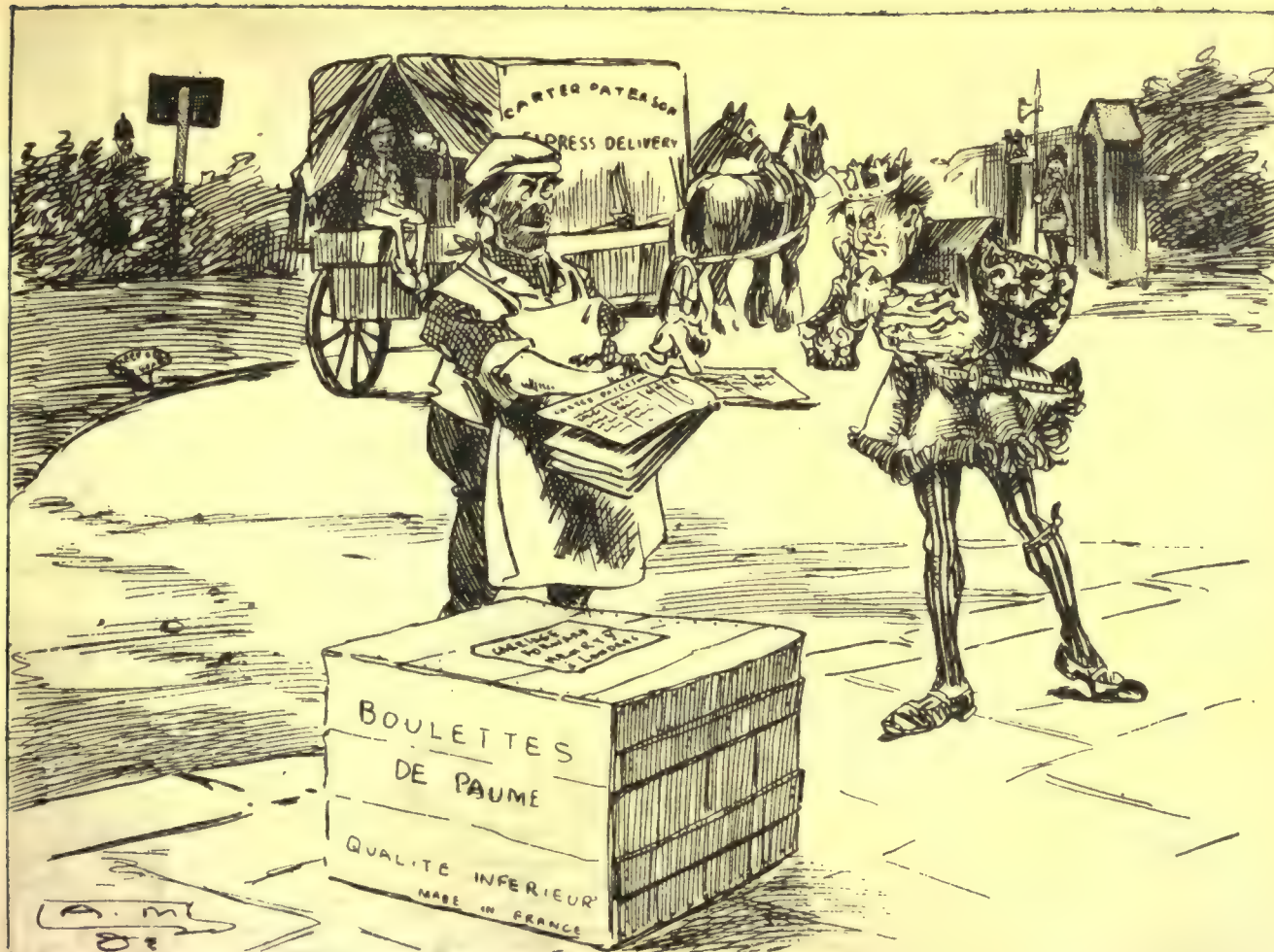
Prince Hal and Judge Gascoigne

The closing years of Henry IV's life were troubled by the riotous and dissipated conduct of his eldest son, Prince Hal. This young man, on one occasion, insulted and drew his sword upon Gascoigne, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, because the Judge insisted upon dealing impartially with one of the Prince's disso'ute companions. Upon this, the Lord Chief is said to have committed the Prince



Lèse-Majesté

Another of Prince Hal's escapades was to enter his father's chamber and try on the crown



An Expensive Jape. A.D. 1415

On the death of Henry IV, in 1413, the riotous Prince Hal succeeded to the throne. He at once discarded all his old companions and called around him the wisest in the land, among them Sir William Gascoigne, the judge who had committed him to gaol. The title "King of France" was claimed until lately by our monarchs, but Henry V—Henry of Monmouth—was the only English sovereign who really deserved the name. He revived the claim of Edward III, and demanded that the treaty of Bretigny should be fulfilled. For answer there came a load of tennis balls—a gentle hint from the Dauphin that Henry was better fitted for play than for war. Henry replied by landing in France with 30,000 men. The campaign included the crushing defeat of the French at Agincourt. The war was renewed in 1417 with such success that at its close Henry was practically King of France.



A Little Bill. A.D. 1423

On the death of Henry V in 1422 his son Henry VI came to the throne at the age of nine months. The country was governed by a Regency, with Duke Humphrey of Gloucester as "Protector." A war with France now commenced, and as the Scotch were assisting the French with money and men it was considered politic to release James I, King of Scotland, who, 19 years previously, had been captured and subsequently imprisoned in Pevensey Castle. Freedom was offered to him on payment of £40,000 for 19 years' board and lodging, and also his signature to an agreement forbidding his subjects from fighting for the French. While in prison James studied Chaucer and wrote poems



Queen Margaret and the Robber

The Wars of the Roses arose from the claim of the Duke of York to the throne of Henry VI, who was of the House of Lancaster. The Lancastrians were defeated at Northampton, at Towton, at Barnet, and other places, and the Duke of York assumed the crown as Edward IV. After one of the battles Henry VI's wife, Queen Margaret, fled with her young son into a forest, where a robber waylaid them. In response to his demands for money, the Queen gave him the little prince by the hand, saying, "My friend, this is the son of your lawful King. I confide him to your care." The robber responded to the appeal, and assisted the Queen and her son to rejoin their friends.



The Introduction of Printing. A.D. 1473

The reign of Edward IV was distinguished by the introduction of printing into England. William Caxton, who learned the art in Holland, set up a press in Westminster in 1473, and in 1474 issued from it the first book printed on English ground, *The Game and Playe of Chesse*. The King took a great interest in the matter, and on several occasions visited Caxton's office



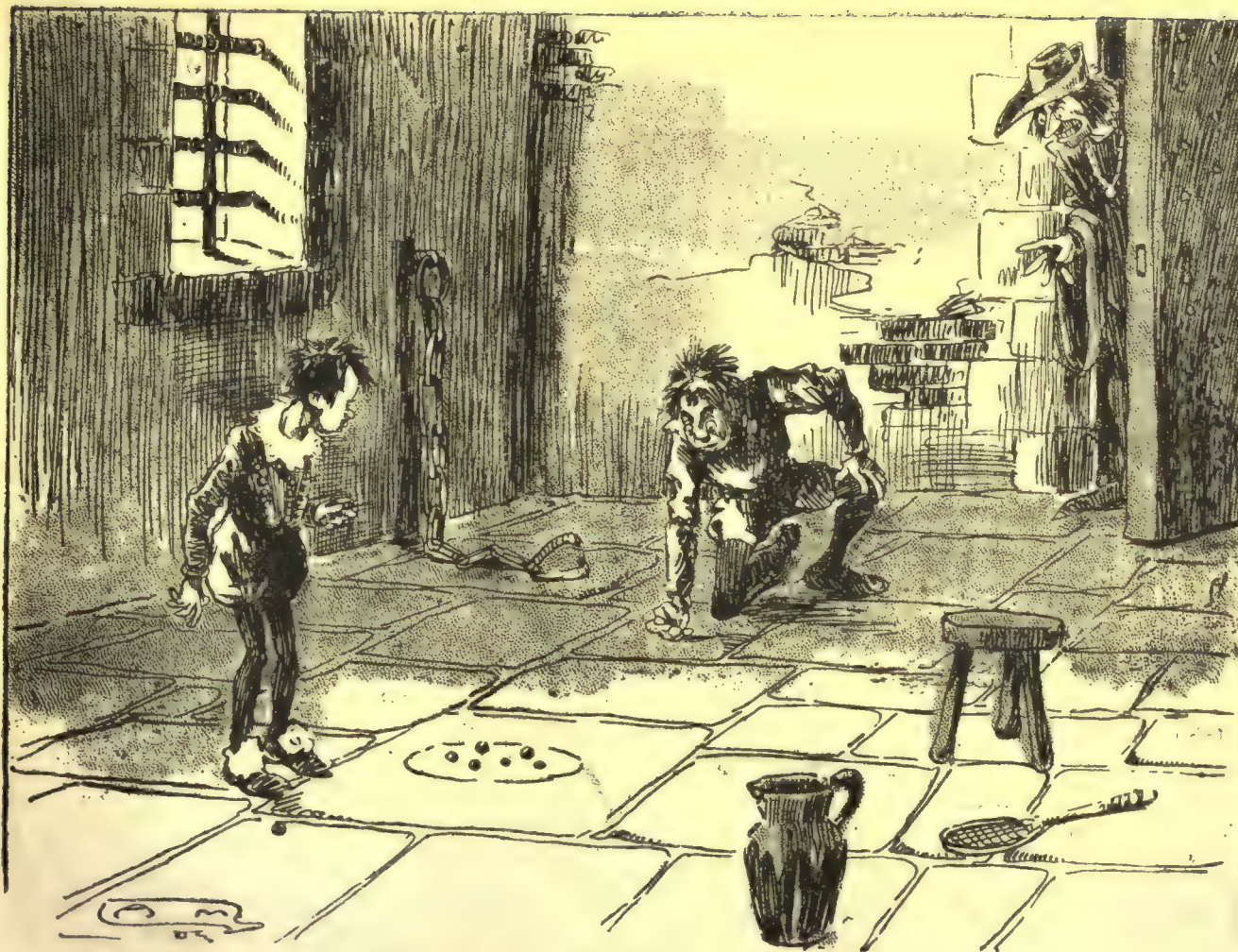
The Villain of the Piece: Off with Hastings' Head

To Edward IV succeeded, for eleven weeks, his young son Edward V. But now came on the scene the most sinister form in English history, Richard "Crookback," Duke of Gloucester, who seized the boy King and his brother into the Tower. Next, with the aid of the Duke of Buckingham, he began to remove the young King's friends. One of the first to go was Lord Hastings, who was arrested in the Council Chamber on a charge of sorcery, hurried off to the chapel yard of the Tower, and beheaded instantly on a log of wood, the proper block not being at hand



Buckingham's Invitation. June 24, 1483

When enough of the friends of Edward V had been executed by the King's uncle and "Protector," Richard Duke of Gloucester, the Duke of Buckingham, Gloucester's friend, went to the Guildhall and extolled Gloucester's virtues. A chorus of ragamuffins, hired for the occasion, cried, "God save King Richard," and next day Buckingham, in the name of the citizens, humbly petitioned Richard to accept the crown. Richard, listening from a window of Baynard Castle, pretended to be staggered by the idea, and pleaded that he loved his nephews far too much. Buckingham answered that the people of England would not submit to the rule of the boy. The Duke of Gloucester thereupon announced that as a painful duty he would accept the crown, and Edward V's reign was at an end.



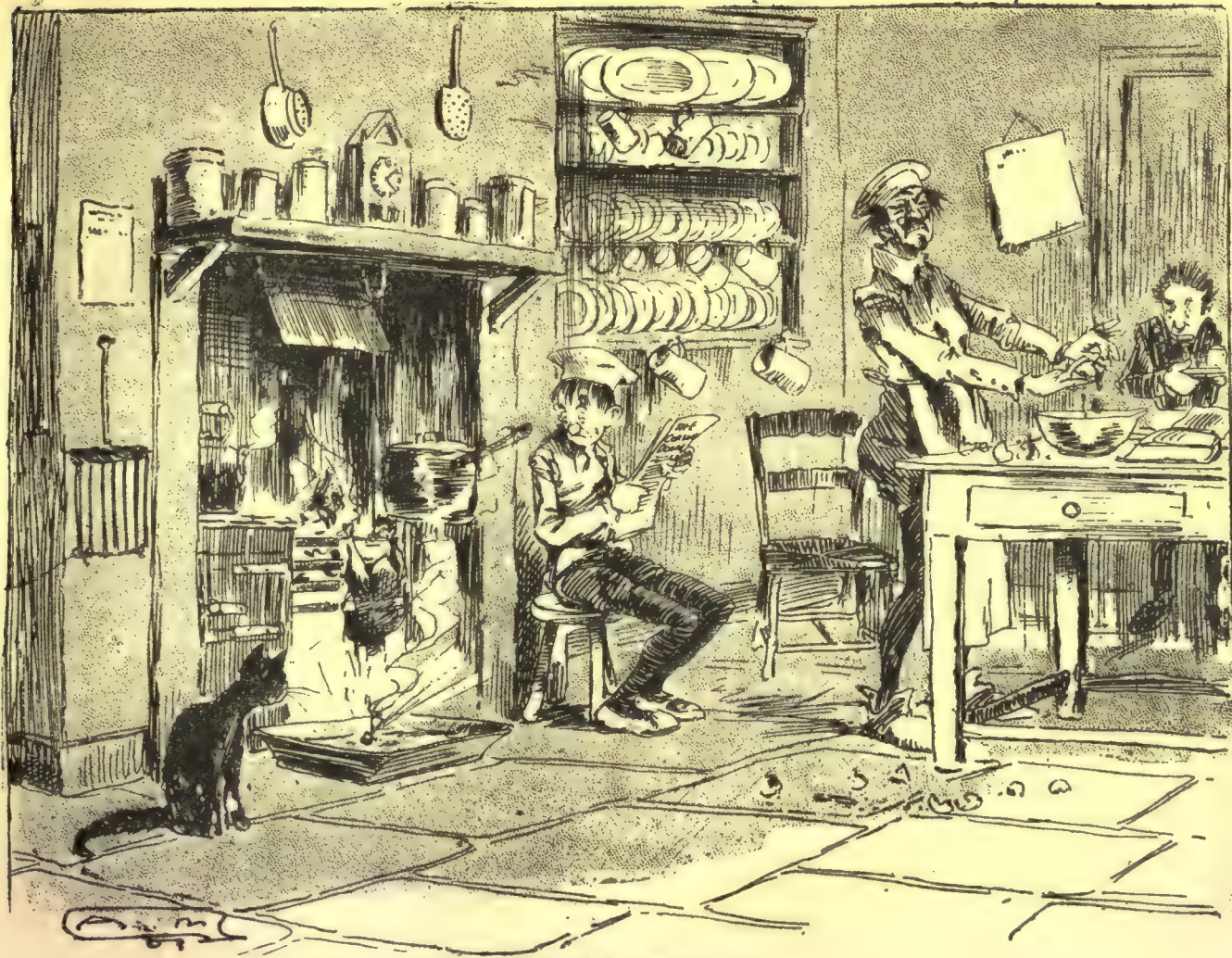
The Princes in the Tower

The murder of the two young princes—one of them the rightful King Edward V—in the Tower, is one of the blackest stains on the memory of their Uncle Richard. The Governor of the Tower was supplanted for twenty-four hours by Sir James Tyrrell, who hired a couple of ruffians to smother the children. According to the story they were buried at the foot of a staircase. Some historians allege, however, that the children never existed



The End of Richard Crookback. A.D. 1485

In 1485 Henry, Earl of Richmond, descendant of Catherine, Henry V's widow, who married Owen Tudor, landed at Milford Haven with an army of 6,000 men. Richard fought against him at Bosworth, and lost his kingdom and his life. It was on this occasion that Richard offered his kingdom for a horse, and, as nobody offered, Richard was taken at a disadvantage and killed. Lord Stanley picked up the crown and placed it upon Henry's head. With Richard III the Plantagenet line came to an end—its place being taken by the House of Tudor



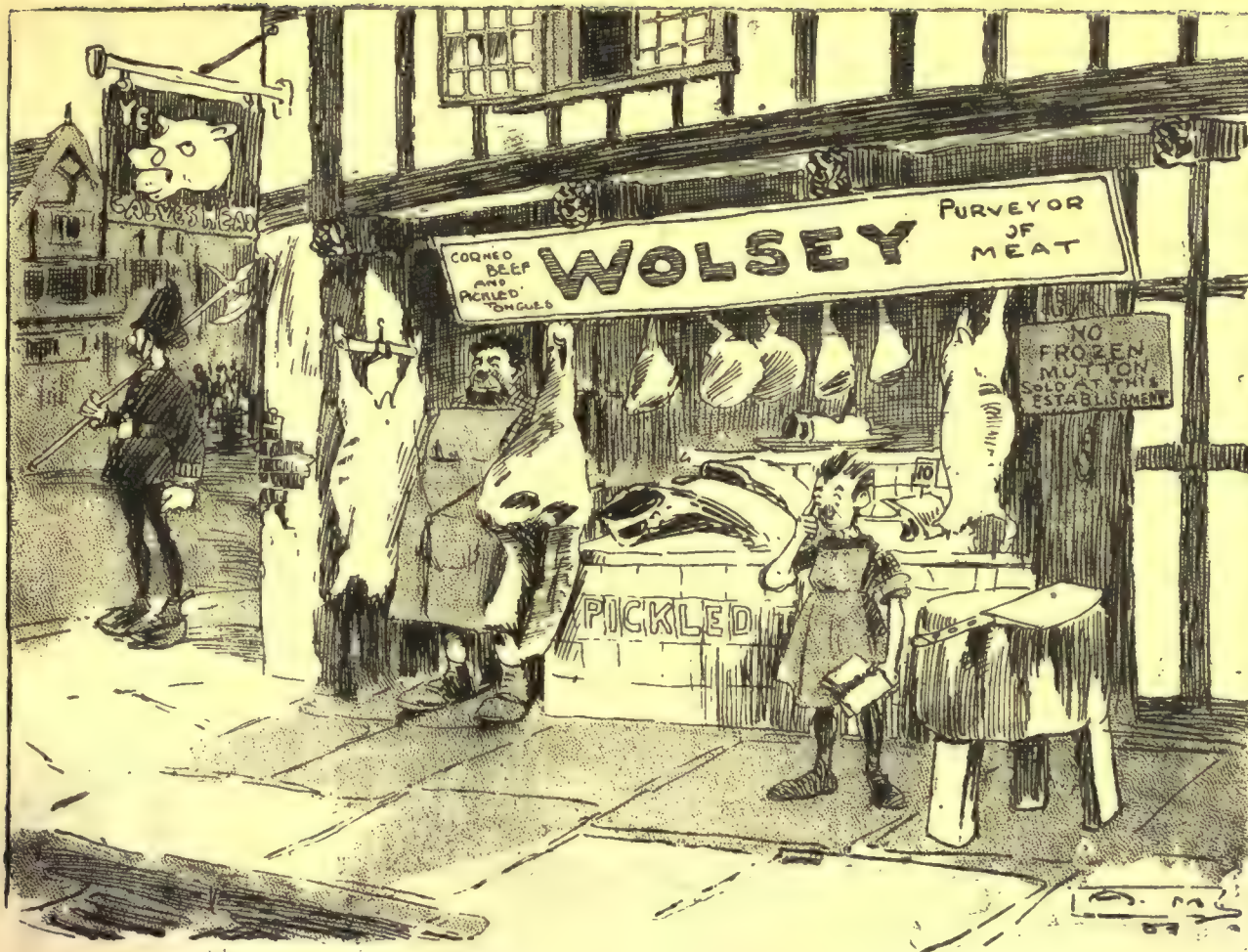
Lambert Simnel. A.D. 1487

The reign of Henry VII was an age of imposture. The real heir to the throne in the Yorkist line, the young Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence, was imprisoned in the Tower, and a priest in Dublin appeared with a boy claimant, who was really a baker's son, by name Lambert Simnel. The new claimant found many supporters, amongst whom was the Earl of Lincoln, who, with Simnel, landed near Furness in Lancashire with 2,000 men. A battle was fought at Stoke, resulting in the defeat of the invaders and the capture of Simnel, who received an appointment as scullion in the royal kitchen, but was afterwards promoted to the post of falconer.



Columbus. A.D. 1492

In the reign of Henry VII, Christopher Columbus, a Genoese, sailed from Spain on a voyage of discovery. Travelling westward across the Atlantic he discovered the West Indian Islands. The news spread abroad, and excited the spirit of emulation in this country, and in 1497 a Venetian named Sebastian Cabot, sent by Henry from Bristol, discovered the mainland of America, touching at Labrador and sailing southward to Florida. In the same year Vasco di Gama, a Portuguese, doubled the Cape of Good Hope, thus opening the path to India



Boyhood of Wolsey

Henry VII died in 1509, and was succeeded by his second son, Henry VIII. The great personage during the reign of Henry VII was Thomas, Cardinal Wolsey. He was the son of an Ipswich butcher, and became an Oxford student at the age of 14. Later the Marquess of Dorset got him appointed one of the late King's chaplains. On the succession of Henry VIII he was taken into great favour, and made Archbishop of York and created a Cardinal



Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn. A.D. 1529

Henry VIII, the personification of the fabled Bluebeard, had in all six wives. The first, Catherine of Aragon, he divorced, having doubts, after twenty years of married life, as to the legality of his marriage with her. The King's fancy was taken by one of her maids of honour, Anne Boleyn, granddaughter of the first Duke of Norfolk. It is said that Catherine discovered Henry making love to Anne, who was quite complaisant



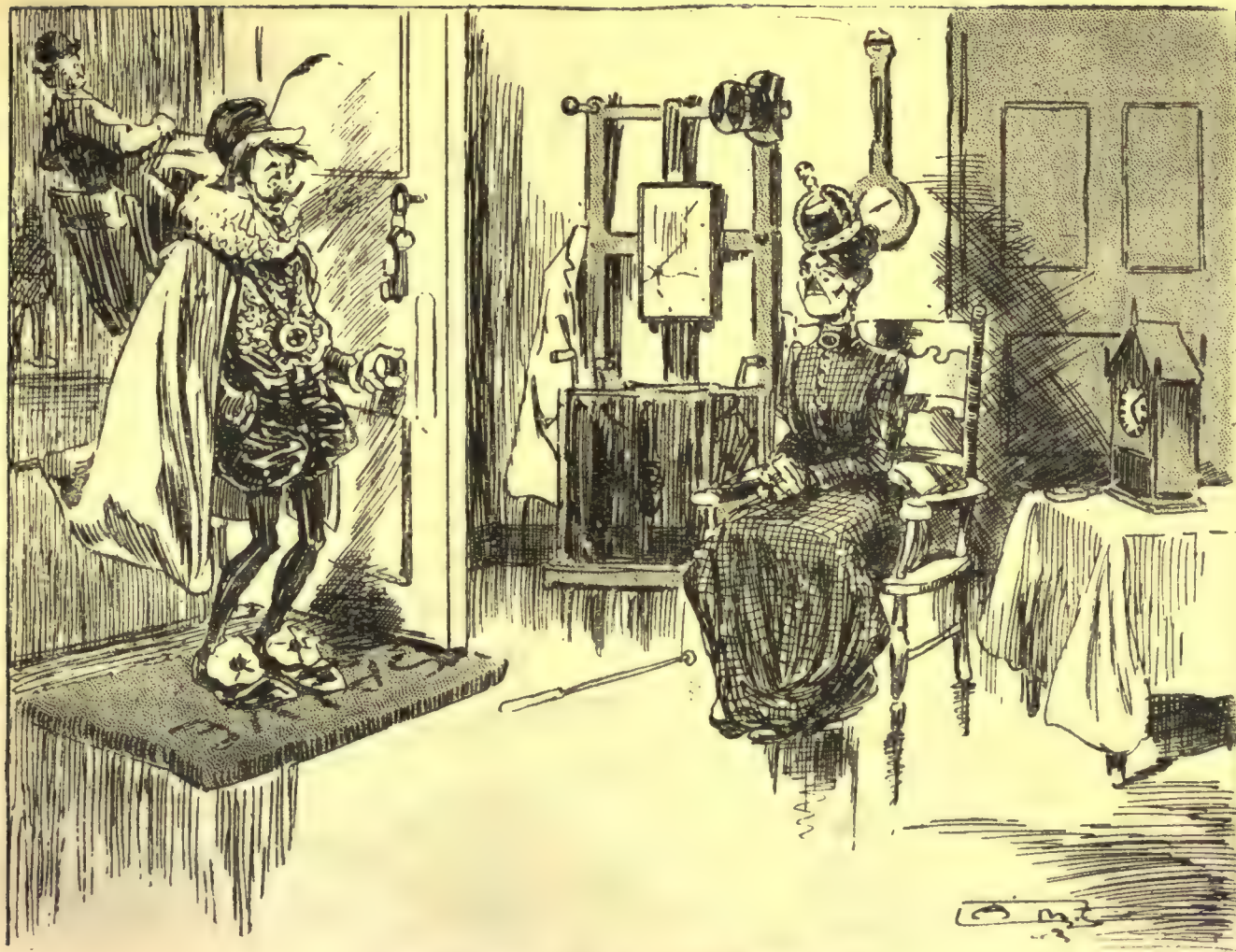
The Suppression of the Monasteries. A.D. 1536

About this time Henry VIII fell out with the Pope. The first disagreement arose from Henry taking the matter of the divorce of Catherine into his own hands. From that time matters became complicated, until, acting under the advice of Thomas Cromwell, he denied the supremacy of the Pope, and made himself head of the English Church. He then cast his eye on the numerous rich monasteries; within three years they were all suppressed, and the King was enriched by their yearly income of £161,000



King Edward the Sixth. A.D. 1547 to 1553

King Edward VI, the son of Henry VIII, was ten years old when he came to the throne. He had, of course, very little share in the actual government of the country. He was of a kindly and gentle disposition—much given to study; and there is preserved in the British Museum a diary from his own pen recording the events of his reign. He died at Greenwich in 1553, in his sixteenth year, after a reign of six years



Matrimonial Differences. A.D. 1554

Mary, the daughter of Catherine, Henry VIII's first wife, succeeded to the throne in 1553. She was a Roman Catholic, and during her reign 288 persons were burned to death for their Protestantism. In 1554 she married Philip, Prince of Spain, he being eleven years her junior; their married life was the reverse of peaceful, Mary being bad-tempered and jealous. They separated within a year of their marriage



Princess Elizabeth at the Traitor's Gate

Queen Mary's chief object in life was to stamp out the Protestant religion. For this purpose she had her half-sister Elizabeth arrested at Ashridge and brought to the Tower. They took her in by the Traitor's Gate, to which she objected, sitting on a stone in the rain, and refusing to move. Her guards besought her to come in out of the wet, but she answered that "it was better sitting there than in a worse place." At length she went to her apartment. She was kept practically a prisoner until the death of Mary



Tobacco. A.D. 1587

About 1587 Sir Walter Raleigh colonized the American coast. In honour of Queen Elizabeth he called the new settlement Virginia. While there he made the acquaintance of what we now know as tobacco. He introduced it to this country, where it achieved an undying popularity



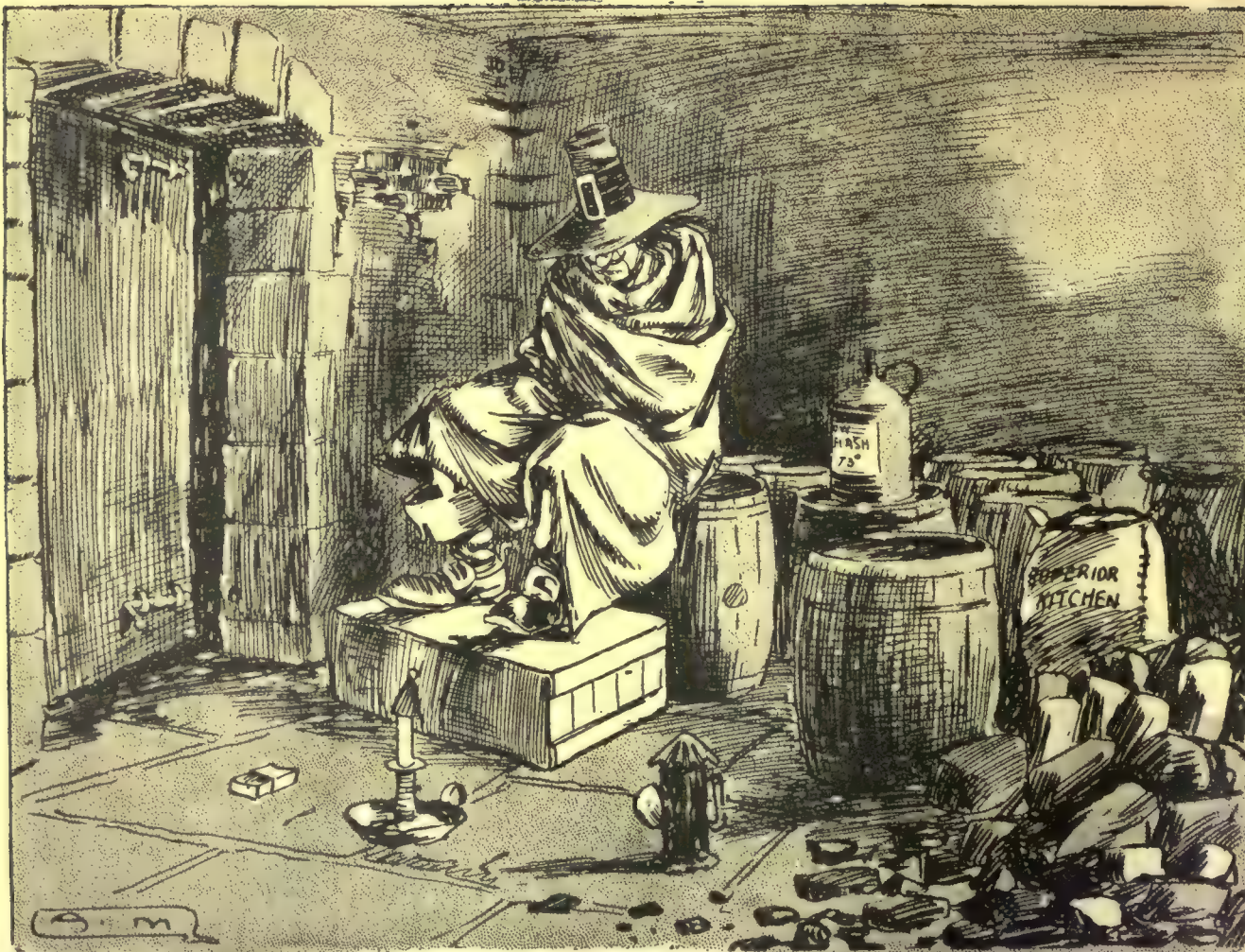
Sir Francis Drake's Game of Bowls A.D. 1588

The great event of Elizabeth's reign was the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Philip of Spain sent it out with the object of conquering England, and with England the Protestant religion. One hundred and thirty ships left Lisbon, and fifty-three shattered hulks returned thither. The English fleet was under the command of Lord Howard of Effingham, and under him served Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher. Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls at Plymouth when the Armada was sighted, but he finished the game before embarking to play bowls with the Spaniards.



The Origin of Cricket

The reign of Elizabeth saw a great advance in outdoor sports, many of which, such as bull and bear baiting, were characterized by savage cruelty, but of games, club ball, which was an early form of cricket, was the chief summer pastime, with football for winter



Gunpowder Plot. November 5, 1605

Elizabeth appointed James VI of Scotland to succeed her. He was the son of Mary Queen of Scots, and the first of the Stuart line to rule in England. The Papists looked to him to overthrow the Protestant religion, and their discontent when they found that he had no such intention took a terrible shape. They resolved to blow up the King, Lords, and Commons by gunpowder. A cellar beneath the Houses of Parliament was hired, and preparations went on apace. A few days before the opening of Parliament Lord Mounteagle received a warning to absent himself. This aroused suspicion, and the vaults were searched, and a Spanish officer named Guido Fawkes were discovered. The rest of the conspirators fled to the country and were mostly killed. Guy Fawkes was executed at the top of Ludgate Hill before St. Paul's



The Faithful Commons. A.D. 1628

Charles I followed in the footsteps of his father by striving for absolute power, and imposed taxes on his own responsibility. The House of Commons objected, and there were three dissolutions in three years. The third Parliament met Charles's demands with such determined resistance that he decided to go down in person and argue with them. They locked themselves in and refused him admission, but he got a locksmith to break open the door, during which the House adjourned. Nine members were sent to prison, where one, Sir John Eliot, died. From this time there was no Parliament for eleven years—1629 to 1640—a case without parallel in our history



Arrest of Charles I

The Civil War which followed as the result of Charles' attempt to usurp the supreme power proved disastrous to his cause. The Puritans, or Roundheads, as they were called, soon had matters all their own way, and Charles was arrested at Holmby House by one Cornet Joice. After being lodged, practically a prisoner, in various houses, he was tried on a charge of high treason in Westminster Hall, condemned to death, and executed January 30, 1649



The Boscobel Oak. A.D. 1651

England, after the execution of Charles I, became a Commonwealth, and continued so for more than eleven years. Royalty and the House of Lords were formally abolished and the government of the country was vested in a Council of forty-one members, with Bradshaw for President. The Scotch, who condemned the execution of Charles, proclaimed his son King Charles II and invited him to Scotland. He landed June 23, 1650. Cromwell was soon on his track and compelled him to retreat to England, where his army was totally routed at the Battle of Worcester, September 3, 1651. Charles escaped, and, it is said, lay hid among the branches of an oak tree at Boscobel, beneath which his pursuers passed, and eventually escaped to France.



Cromwell dissolving "The Long Parliament." April 20, 1653

In 1653 Cromwell dissolved the Parliament. He entered the House with 300 musketeers at his back, and pointing to the mace on the table said, "Take away that bauble." He then had the House cleared, locked the door, and took away the key. Soon afterwards he was elected Lord Protector by his officers, and for the rest of his life was practically absolute ruler. He died in 1658.



The Great Fire of London. September 2, 1666

The reign of Charles II was remarkable for many things, mostly unpleasant. 1665 was the year of the Plague, when more than one hundred thousand people perished. In the following year the Great Fire broke out, and the City from the Tower to the Temple burned for a week. Eighty-nine churches and more than thirteen thousand houses were burned



Acquittal of the Seven Bishops. June 29, 1688

Charles II was succeeded by his brother James, Duke of York—a zealous Roman Catholic. He caused a Declaration of Indulgence to be issued removing all disabilities from Catholics, and commanded it to be read by ministers from their pulpits on two successive Sundays. The London clergy refused, and the Primate, Sancroft, with six bishops, drew up a petition against the Declaration. The seven bishops were committed to the Tower. They were tried for libel, and after an all-night sitting the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. That night London was illuminated. In less than five months afterwards William of Orange landed at Torbay, and James had to flee.



The End of Judge Jeffreys. A.D. 1689

William, Prince of Orange, and Mary, his wife, were crowned April 11, 1689. At their coronation they were surrounded by the chief Ministers of the deposed King. There was one of King James's most active officials who was not present, the notorious Judge Jeffreys, the hero of the Bloody Assize. When his master fled he sought to do likewise, but was discovered hiding in Wapping, begrimed with coal-dust and in the dress of a common sailor. He was borne to the Tower amid the roars of the crowd thirsting for his blood. He died shortly afterwards.



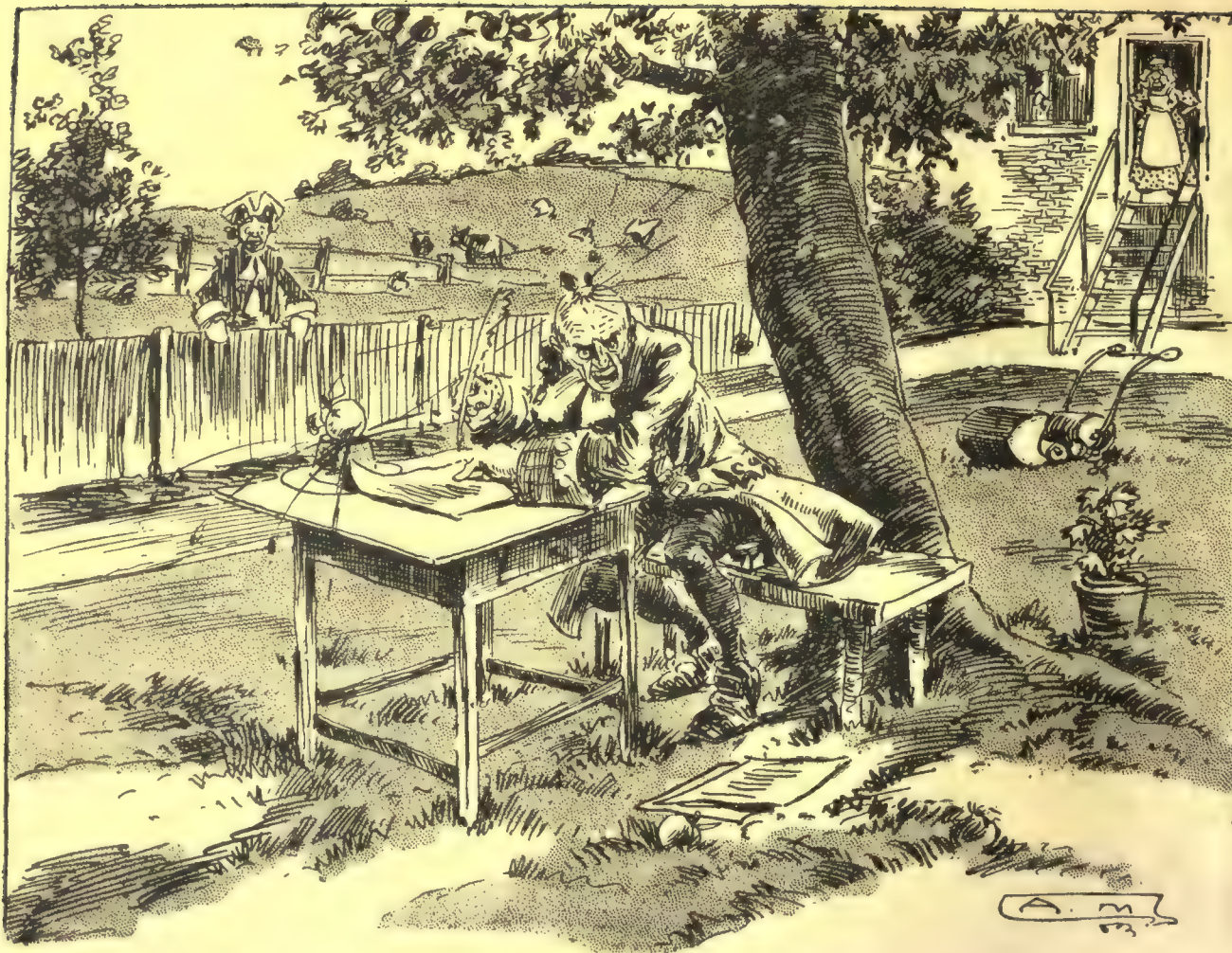
William III at the Battle of the Boyne. July 1, 1690

The Irish still looked upon James II as the rightful monarch, and Ireland was the scene of his last struggle for the crown. Louis of France gave his support, and Tyrconnel raised a Catholic army; James landed and entered Dublin in triumph. His first operation was the siege of Londonderry. After many months the city was relieved, and King William soon afterwards landed at Carrickfergus at the head of 40,000 men. Seventeen days later a great battle was fought on the banks of the Boyne, ending in the total defeat of James, who fled to Waterford and crossed to France, where he died in 1701.



The Morning of Blenheim. A.D. 1704

The Duke of Marlborough was the great man of Queen Anne's reign. He gained great victories over the French at Blenheim in 1704, Ramilies in 1706, Oudenarde in 1708, and at Malplaquet in 1709. Though the cartoon shows the illustrious general laying his plans for the coming battle, it is not intended to depict that great occasion so much as to indicate the extraordinary style in footwear in vogue at the time



The Law of Gravitation

William III died in 1702, and was succeeded by George I, Elector of Hanover and great-grandson of James I. His reign was notable for two great events—the South Sea Bubble and the discovery of the Law of Gravitation by Sir Isaac Newton. Newton was writing beneath a tree in his garden, when an apple fell and struck him on the head, and the circumstance led to a train of thought, the outcome of which was the establishment of the Law of Gravitation



Bonnie Prince Charlie in the Robbers' Cave

The reign of George II saw the last effort of the Stuarts to regain the throne of England. Prince Charles Edward, grandson of James II, landed in Scotland, and after various successes marched South as far as Derby. He was driven back and finally defeated on Culloden Moor, April 16, 1746. He wandered for months in the Highlands with a price on his head, and on one occasion stayed for some days in a Robbers' Cave, the Royal troops passing several times within earshot of his hiding-place. He ultimately escaped to France and died in 1788. There are now no robber caves in Scotland, their place having been taken by large modern hotels



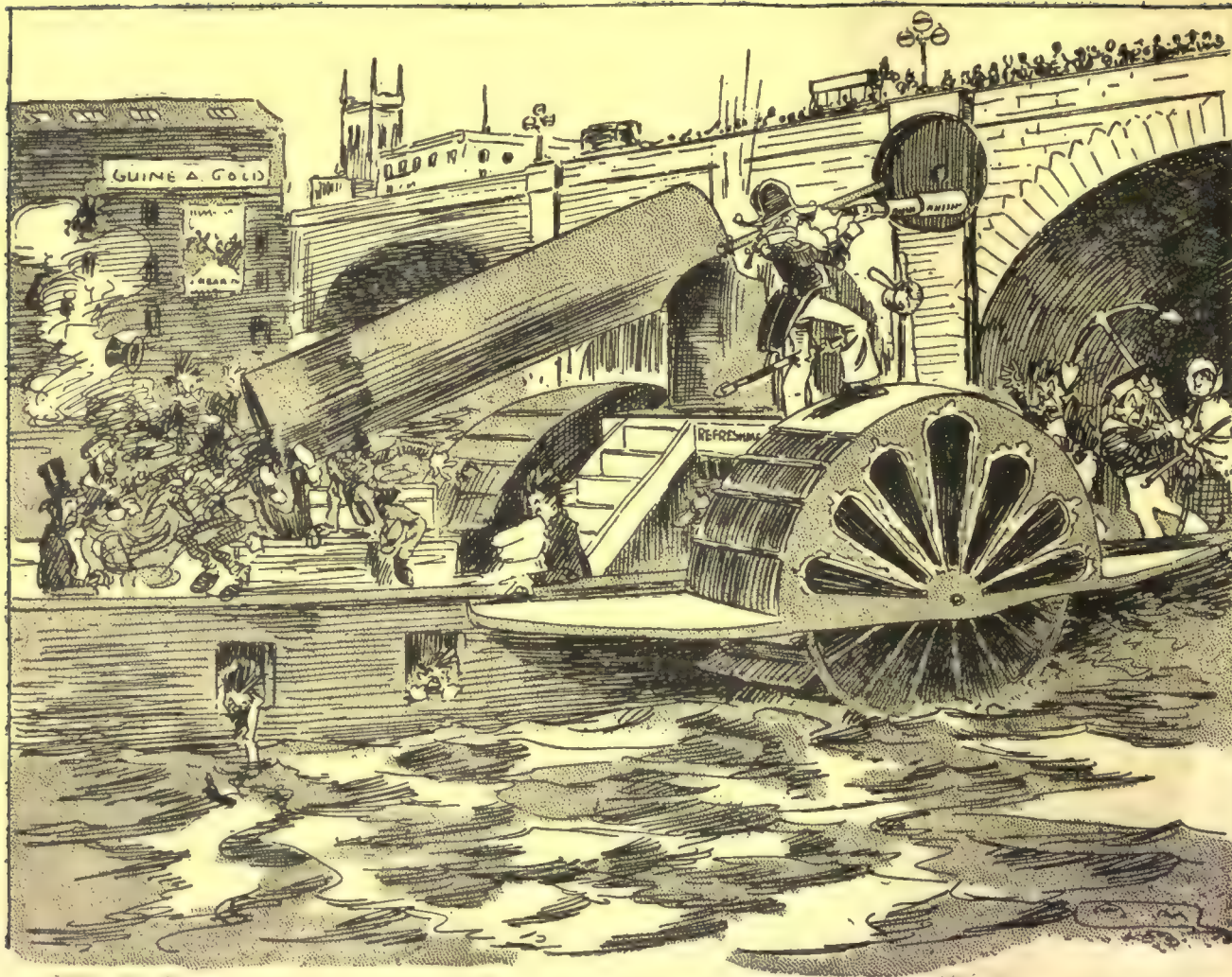
George Washington

In the days of George III the American colonies revolted against the imposition of taxes by the Home Government. George Washington led the fight which ended in the emancipation of the Colonies and the formation of the United States of America, with Washington as the first President. It is said of Washington that when a boy his father presented him with an axe; and that young George employed it in hacking a cherry-tree in the garden. Taxed with the offence, George manfully owned up, "Father," he said, "I can't tell a lie; I did chop the cherry-tree"



Napoleon's Retreat from Waterloo. June 18, 1815

The first years of the 19th Century saw the rise and fall of Napoleon. After subduing Austria and Prussia, he essayed to conquer Russia, but was driven back from Moscow, losing in his retreat 400,000 men. This led to his temporary downfall and his retirement to Elba; while the deposed Bourbons re-occupied the throne of France. In 1815 Napoleon returned, and within twenty days of his landing he was once more Emperor. All Europe rose against him, the British Parliament voted £110,000,000 for his downfall, and the Prussians, Austrians and Russians prepared large armies. The end of all his schemes came on June 18, 1815, when Wellington defeated him at Waterloo. He died at St. Helena on May 3, 1821, having been an exile there for six years.



The First Steamboat. A.D. 1822

During the reign of George IV the first iron steamboat was seen on the Thames



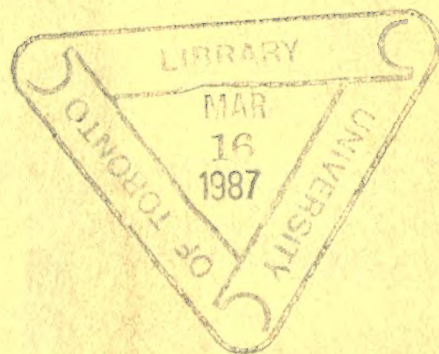
The First Railway Train. September 15, 1830

In the reign of William IV George Stephenson invented the locomotive engine, and on September 15, 1830, the first passenger railway was opened between Liverpool and Manchester



Mammon: A Present Day Allegory

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